



Flowers

Aims

To encourage children to look at flowers closely.

To recognise and name three common flower species.

Use the flower worksheet to go out into the school grounds (ideally an area of grass) to look for and identify three common flowers - dandelion, daisy and buttercup.

Depending on your school grounds you may not find all of these species or, if you are lucky, you may find other plants too. Don't worry if you do not find all three species - this exercise is a survey and simply says that this species isn't found in your school grounds. In the fourth circle there is room to draw another species which you may find.

If possible look for flowers at different stages of development e.g. seeds, seedlings, plants with buds, plants with flowers. Make sketches of plants at these different stages of development and discuss the differences between them.

As all of these flowers are very common, you could pick some of them and press them and then use them in artwork.

However, it may be worth pointing out to the children that whilst it is OK with permission to pick flowers from the school field or their own gardens, they shouldn't be picked from woodlands, hedgerows or other people's gardens.

Some flowers and seeds are poisonous. Promote discussion about not eating flowers or berries, no matter how nice they look, unless an adult is sure that they are edible. Even then, they should be washed thoroughly before being eaten. It is also worth pointing out that it is wise to wash hands after any work outside.



Flowers

Find these flowers in your school grounds and then colour in the pictures using the correct colours.



❖ Daisy



❖ Buttercup



❖ Dandelion

❖ Draw another flower here and colour it in



Grow a flower

Aims

To know what seeds need to grow.

To study plants closely and draw a diagram.

Growing Plants

Grow a seed into a flower in school. Nasturtium is a good seed to use as it is large and therefore easily handled and it grows quickly into a flower. Over a longer time, sunflowers are good fun to grow and could be planted outside. Other quick growing flowers are poppy or love-in-a-mist. Use the worksheet to draw the plant at different stages of development.

Sorting Seeds

Provide children with seeds to sort in class. Suitable seeds to use include dandelion, birdseed (beware of the potential risk to peanut allergy sufferers), acorns, conkers, beans, pulses, coconut, sunflower seeds, unusual fruits (kiwi or starfruit), nasturtium. Ask the children to sort by size or colour or shape. Provide some false examples (e.g. carrot or potato, which are not seeds but tubers, full of stored energy).

If you choose to use fruit (apples, oranges, cucumber, tomato) for this exercise, you could cut these in half and use poster paints to make fruit prints. The class could taste the fruits (or even make a fruit salad) saying which they do or do not like and why.



Grow a flower

✿ Seed

✿ Seedling

✿ Bud

✿ Flower