

Studying and Drawing a Flower

With warmer spring weather and longer days, nature is waking up from a long winter. Go outside and see what is starting to bloom! If you have a garden, maybe you planted bulbs in the fall; now they are starting peek up from their slumber. Watch as they inch their way upward and, step-by-step, transform into a marvelous display of shape and color! Even if all you have is a small lawn, an alleyway, or nearby park, you can find this annual rebirth from the soil and participate in the glorious celebration of spring.

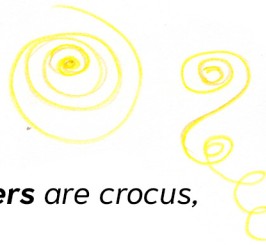


1

Find a spring flower to study and draw. If you can, consider digging up a whole flower with the bulb. The roots and dirt can be fun and exciting! If you didn't plant, you can go to a florist and find flowers in pots, so you can still dig up the bulb.



Suggested flowers are crocus, daffodil, tulips. Walk around with your child and notice and discover nature together. You might even be lucky enough to witness bees pollinating the flowers!



Suggested Materials

A small shovel and pot

Colored pencils

Paper

Pencil Sharpener

Eraser

Magnifying glass*
(*optional, but so much fun to examine flowers up close and personal!)



2

Bring your specimen back to the "lab."

Choose a table (inside or outside!) and begin to examine your flower closely with your eyes or a magnifying glass. Observe and discuss the shapes and colors you see.

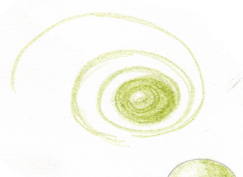
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Basic Botany and Exploration. If you have more than one flower, choose one and carefully "undress" it, or take it apart, to study it. Lay each petal on the table and count them. Observe other flower parts, such as leaves, stamens and pistils. Count those, too!



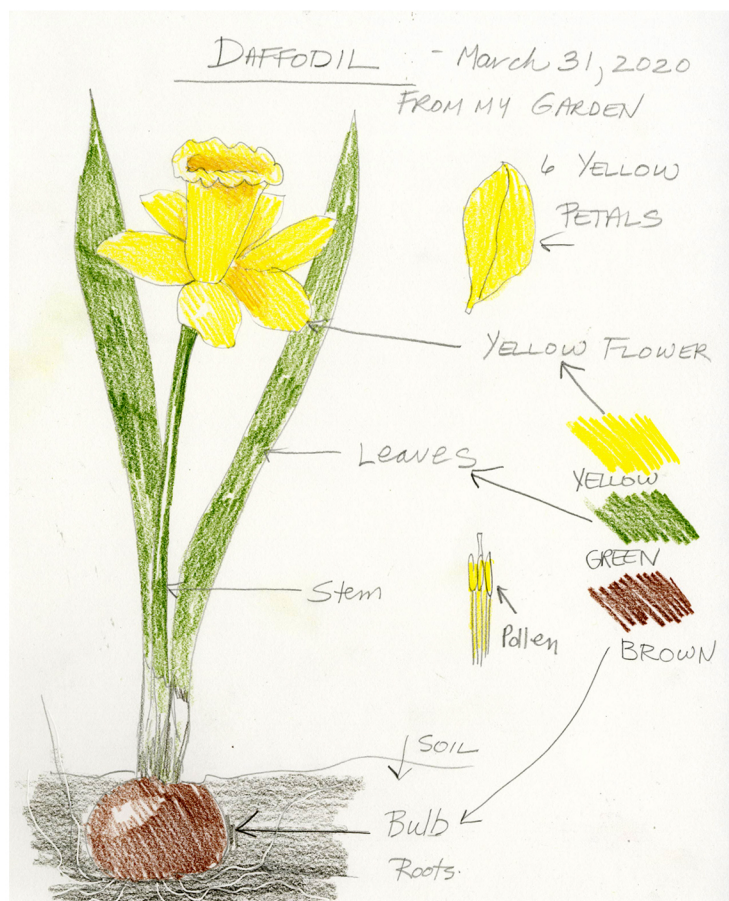
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Color matching. Choose pencil colors that match the color of your real flower. You can test and mix colors on your paper and then hold the flower next to them to see if they match.



5

Begin your flower drawing. Use the information and observations you gathered, as well as the colors you mixed, to draw your flower on paper. Don't forget the stem, leaves, and roots! With younger children, consider drawing together, or simply observe the flower and learn the names of the parts. Older children can draw on their own, or, better yet, both of you create your own drawings!



6

Budding Naturalists. Include scientific information and collected data on your drawing. Write the date, which helps you track the growing season. Write the name of your flower. You can also label the parts of the flower, including the inside of the flower where the pollen is. If there is a particular part of the flower that interests you, try drawing it!

7

Ask questions. After drawing your flower and studying it so carefully, you may have questions. Nature is very organized and has a reason for everything, so it is fun to discover the purpose of things. For example, what do you think the roots do? What is pollen for? (It is easy to get real answers from the internet, but first try to answer these questions and make guesses together.) If you discover the answer to one of your questions, write it on your paper!

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Continue. Follow this lesson again with different flowers, or track the growth of one flower from bud to seed. Even weeds, like dandelions, are great subjects. You'll have a botany sketchbook that shows the progress outside as the seasons change!

