Flower Dissection

Can you identify the pieces of a flower that are important for its reproduction and survival? Find a flower to dissect and start investigating! Plant reproduction occurs through pollination. This is when pollinators transfer pollen (the male reproductive cell) from the stamen of one flower to the pistil (the female reproductive part) of another flower.

Materials needed:
• A flower
• Magnifying glass (optional)

Step-by-step instructions:
1. Find a flower you can pick (check with a grown-up).
2. Dissect your flower by carefully pulling it apart and observing the different pieces.
3. What parts can you identify? Use photos and diagrams to help.

Additional explorations:
• Make a detailed drawing of your flower including labels.
• Find a different type of flower to dissect. Compare this flower to the first flower you examined. How are they the same? How are they different?

Discussion questions:
• What pieces of your flower could you identify? How do you think these parts help your flower survive?
• Do you think these pieces look the same or different on other flowers? Why?
• What types of pollinators do you think visit the flower you dissected?

Additional resources
• Parts of Flowers
  https://web.extension.illinois.edu/gpe/case4/c4facts1a.html
• Count Flowers for Bees Citizen Science Project
  https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/eileenfranklin/count-flowers-for-bees

Parts of a Flower