

College Guild  
PO Box 6448 Brunswick, Maine 04011

# Gardening

## Unit 3 of 7

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*"What a desolate place would be a world without a flower!  
It would be a face without a smile, a feast without a welcome  
And are not flowers the stars of the earth,  
And are not our stars the flowers of the heaven"*

Quotation by A. J. Balfour (1848 - 1930); Prime Minister from 1902 - 1905.

- 1. Do you agree with the last two lines of the poem?
- 2. How would you interpret their meaning?

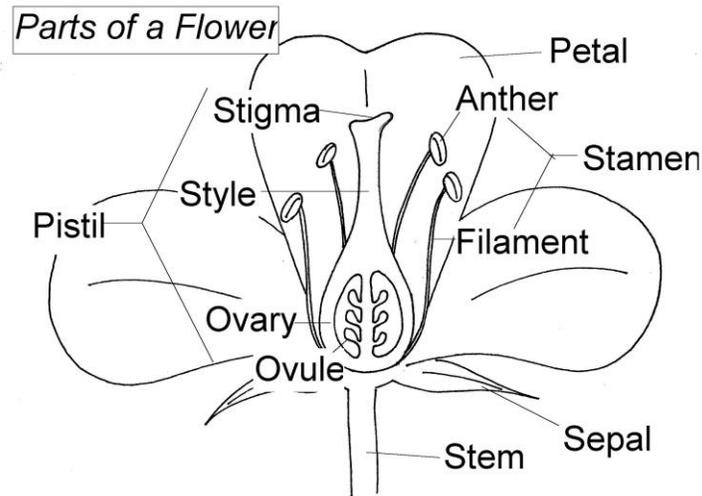
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In this Unit we are going to take a closer look at flowers and try and understand why they are so important to us and why they make us feel so many different emotions.

- 3. Name four different occasions when you would send flowers to someone.
- 4. What sort of flowers would you send?
- 5. What are your favorite flowers? And why?

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The flower, or bloom of a plant contains the plant's reproductive system. The color of the petals and the flower's fragrance attracts insects that fly inside the flower to collect nectar. Whilst in the flower, they transfer pollen from the "stamens" (male part) to the "pistals" (female part).

**6. Name three creatures capable of pollinating a flower. Draw a picture of one of them.**

Once the pollen has been transferred, the flower can then produce fruits or seed heads containing the seeds.

**7. Think of three ways that the seeds can be distributed to other areas where they will grow as new plants.**

**8. If you could be a flower, what kind would you want to be and why?**

**9. Many flowers have symbolic meanings. What do you think of when you hear the words:**

Rose

Lily

Daisy

Sunflower

Hibiscus

Dahlia

Now it's brainteaser time!

**10. How many words can you make from the word *flowers*? Hint -- there are at least eight.**

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Most flowering plants can be divided into two types -- *annuals* and *perennials*. Annuals grow from seed and they flower and die in a single season. Most annuals are bedding plants, sold ready to plant and to help fill out the garden beds with masses of color. They are usually planted sometime in May and will generally bloom until September. Examples of annuals are the petunia, pansy, and dahlia.



11. What would be three other advantages of putting annuals in a garden?

12. What would be the disadvantages of a garden with just annuals in it?



A *perennial* is a plant that does not die after one season's growth. Usually the upper part of the plant and the flowers do die off, but the roots remain alive and in the spring new growth appears again. The following year the plant is often much bigger than it was the previous year. Most perennials bloom at certain times only, unlike annuals that bloom all summer, so in order to have a garden that is consistently in bloom you need a selection of perennials that bloom at different times. Examples of perennials are the cornflower, peony, and Goat's Beard.

13. What would be some disadvantages of a garden with just perennials in it?

14. What mix of annuals and perennials would you put in a garden bed?

15. Draw a picture of what you think *Goat's Beard* looks like?

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### Weeds



Some people say "a weed is just the right plant in the wrong place" or that "a flower is just an educated weed."

16. What do you think a weed is?

A few examples of weeds are *dandelions*, *crabgrass*, and *goldenrod*.

17. Name three more weeds and where you would find them growing.

Most weeds left uncontrolled will take over the garden. They will compete for everything that they need to survive -- water, light, air, nutrients, and space above and below ground. They need to be pulled or dug out of the ground making sure the entire plant is removed. However, there are times when weeds are actually planted on purpose.

18. For what reasons would you deliberately plant a weed?

19. Write a story about living in a garden from a weed's point of view.

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### "The Garden State"

A politician from Camden, New Jersey is credited with giving the state the nickname "the Garden State" whilst speaking at the Philadelphia Centennial exhibition on New Jersey Day, August 24th 1876. He said that "our Garden State is an immense barrel, filled with good things to eat and open at both ends, with Pennsylvanians grabbing from one end and New Yorkers from the other."

20. What do you think he was referring to when he said, "good things to eat"?

In 1954, the state Legislature passed a bill to have "The Garden State" added to car license plates. The Governor at the time vetoed the bill and would not allow it. However, he was overruled by the Legislature, and to this day New Jersey license plates say "The Garden State" on them.

21. Why do you think the Governor tried to veto the bill?



In New Jersey the state flower is the Common Meadow Violet; the state tree is the Red Oak; the state bird is the Eastern Goldfinch; and the state fruit is the blueberry.

22. What do you think is the purpose of states having "state" flowers, trees, birds, and fruit?

23. What would you choose as the state flower, tree, bird, and fruit from your state. And why?



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*Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes*