



Cambridge University

Botanic Garden

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT HOME

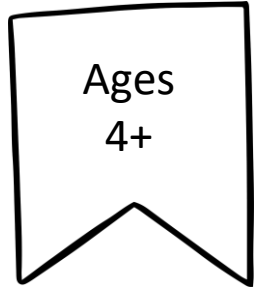
Petal Power



You will need:

- Paper
- Arty stuff (pens, paints, crayons etc.)
- Scissors
- Something round to draw around

Ages
4+



For this activity we are going to design our own super flowers but before we get started we need to learn a little bit about flowers and how they are already pretty super.

The first thing to know is that bees love flowers and flowers love bees! The flowers give the bees pollen and nectar and the bees help the flowers by transporting their pollen from flower to flower – something that needs to happen for the plant to make seeds. Bees and other insects that transport pollen between flowers are called pollinators.

The next thing to know is that flowers do a lot of different things to attract pollinators. Petals help a lot with this by helping the insects find the flower. They can be large and bright colours. Scientists are also learning that petals do a lot of other wonderful things to help get noticed. Have a look at the following pictures that show some of the ways they attract pollinators.



This flower has a 'bullseye' that shows the way to the pollen and nectar at the centre of the flower.





This flower is iridescent. It has a shiny surface that reflects different colours. The iridescence stands out to bees.



This flower has black spots that look like insects. Real insects are fooled and try to join them.



These foxglove flowers have big landing areas making them the perfect spot for bumblebees to land.



The petals on this plant have nectar guides. These are like special arrows that point towards the centre of the flower.



This flower has invisible ultraviolet markings that humans can't see but bees can. The two pictures are the same flower but the one on the left shows how it looks to humans and the one on the right shows the secret markings that only bees see.

Ok, so now we know about bees and flowers we can get on with designing and making our own flower. Yay!

Your challenge is to create the ultimate flower, something that really stands out and gets noticed. You can use ideas from the real flowers, your own ideas or a mix of both. The instructions below show you how to make your own plain flower shape – after that the rest is completely up to you! Use whatever art supplies you have in your house and get creating! To share your creations with us use the hashtag #CUBGFamily

