



Purpose of game: To learn about some of the ways flowers can be classified.

Target age group: Any age (You can adapt the game to suit younger or older players.)

Materials needed: Copies of these flower cards printed onto card stock, scissors, (laminating plastic if you want to make the cards durable)

Number of players: 2 to 6

Time needed to play: 15-45 minutes (depending on how many players and how many cards you use)

PLEASE NOTE: This game does not delve into the subject of simple versus compound flowers. Although this seems like a very easy concept, it is often difficult to determine whether a flower is simple or compound just by looking at it. For example, most students would guess that a daisy is a simple flower. It looks like a basic flower. However, each petal is actually a separate flower, making it a compound flower. In many cases you must have botanical knowledge about the flower in order to make the determination of whether it is simple or compound. Therefore, this aspect of flower classification has been omitted. If you would like to add this feature to the game, cut some additional cards and add two “simple” cards and two “compound” cards.

How to prepare:

Copy or print the flower cards onto heavy card stock paper. If you don't have a good color printer, you can copy the digital file that you downloaded from the website onto a “jump stick” and take it to a store that does color printing. They will be able to print the cards onto heavy card stock paper. (The professionally printed cards will look really beautiful.) The reason that there are 12 flowers per page is to keep the printing cost as low as possible. Bigger cards might have been better in some ways, but it also would have increased the cost of making the game.

Laminate the cards with plastic if you want to make them durable. Cut the cards apart.

How to play the game:

Shuffle the word cards and put them into a stack. The printed sides should face down, like a “draw pile.” Put this pile in the center of the playing area. (Choose the word cards that are appropriate for your players. If you are practicing reading skills, you might want to omit the harder words. If you are practicing botanical knowledge, include the difficult cards. You can add more botanical terms if you have studied some that are not included in these game cards.)

Determine how many picture cards will be in play. You can distribute all the cards equally among the players, or you can choose to give each player 5 or 10 or more, depending on the attention span of your players and the amount of time you have to play.

The players should lay their picture cards in front of them face up. There is no need for secrecy in this game. The goal of the game is to get all of your picture cards flipped over.

The players take turns drawing a card from the word stack. The drawn cards will be for everyone to play, not just the player whose turn it was to draw a card. The drawn card is laid down so that all players can see it. Then the players look at their picture cards to see if they have a flower that matches the word. If they find a match, they turn that card over. **ONLY ONE CARD CAN BE FLIPPED**

PER TURN. If a player has more than one picture card that matches with the drawn word card, he must choose just one card to turn over. (If you are working with younger players and this rule will cause the game to go on too long (past their attention span) you may allow them to flip all cards that qualify.)

If you use all the word cards before the end of the game, just recycle them. If you find that certain word cards come up too frequently or too infrequently for your liking, you can remove cards or add duplicates, accordingly.

The first player to get all his cards flipped over wins the game. If you would like to downplay competition, just announce that the game is over as soon as all players have their cards flipped.

It is up to the administrator of the game to make decisions regarding questions players might have about a flower fitting into a category. For example, a botanist might see a flower as definitely trumpet-shaped, but a child might point out that the top of the trumpet is saucer-shaped and therefore the flower should be able to be flipped over if the saucer card is drawn. Either way is fine, as long as everyone plays by the same set of rules. (The “flowers that look like animals” category will be one of the more controversial ones. The shrimp flower and the bird of paradise flower are obvious, but does the joint-vetch look like a turkey? Just the fact that this question is under discussion means that they are learning, so it really doesn’t matter what is decided. The point is that they are observing flowers a lot more closely than they would have otherwise.)

EXTRA IDEAS:

1) A MEMORY MATCHING GAME

You can also use these cards to play a memory match game. Choose the word cards you want to use, then find a matching picture card for each. Shuffle them, then lay them out, face down. The players take turns flipping over two cards to see if they can find a match.

2) PRACTICE ALPHABETIZING

Lay out all the cards and have your student(s) put them in alphabetical order.

3) GUESS THE CATEGORY

Put all the word cards in a draw pile face down, and all the flower cards laid out in neat rows face up. Let each player take a turn choosing a random card from the word card pile. The player should not show the word card to anyone. The player then chooses three to five picture cards that demonstrate the word card and lays those pictures in a separate row. The other players look at those chosen cards and try to determine what the category is.



white

red

yellow

pink

orange

blue or
purple

white

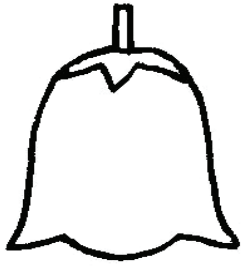
red

yellow

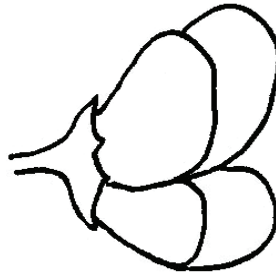
pink

orange

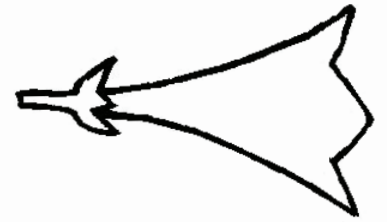
blue or
purple



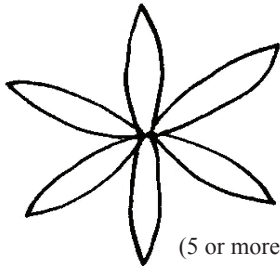
bell-shaped
(campanulate)



butterfly-shaped
(papilionaceous)

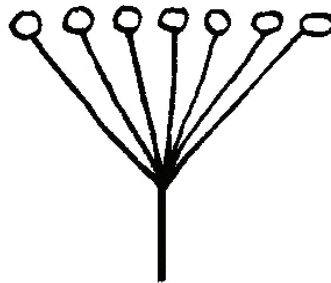


trumpet-shaped

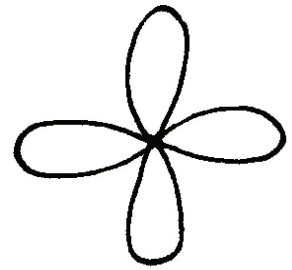


(5 or more petals)

star-shaped
(stellate)



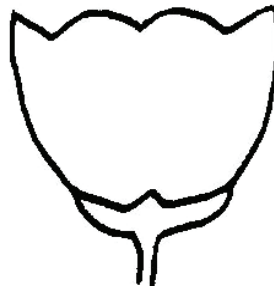
umbrella-shaped
(umbellate)



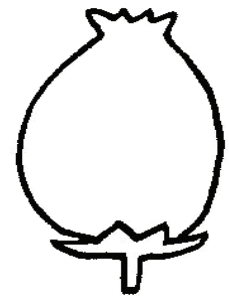
cross-shaped
(cruciform)



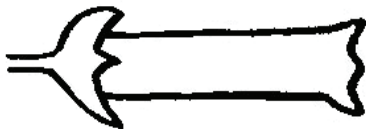
button-shaped
(or has central disk
with this shape)



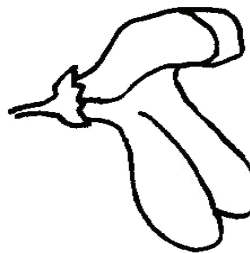
cup-shaped



urn-shaped
(urceolate)



tube-shaped
(tubular)



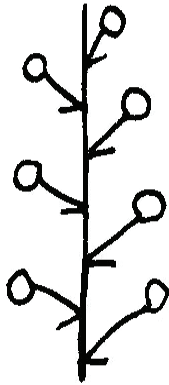
lip-shaped
(labiate)



saucer-shaped



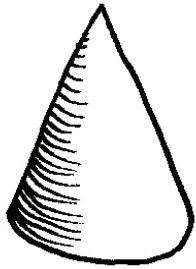
spire



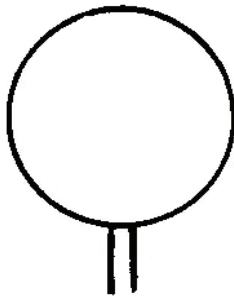
raceme



has a spadix



cone-shaped



ball-shaped

petals are all
the same size
and shape

4 petals

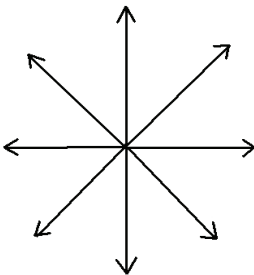
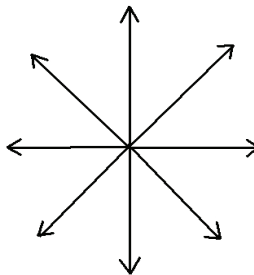
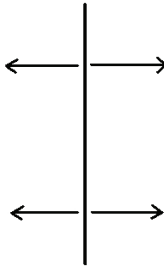
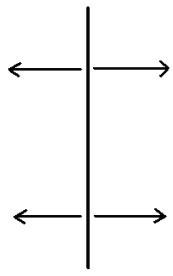
5 petals

6 petals

more than a
dozen petals

can't see
individual
petals

petals are thin
as strings

 <p>“regular” (has radial symmetry)</p>	 <p>“regular” (has radial symmetry)</p>	 <p>“irregular” (has bilateral symmetry)</p>
 <p>“irregular” (has bilateral symmetry)</p>	<p>solid color</p>	<p>more than one color</p>
<p>shaped like an animal</p>	<p>looks like a hanging lantern</p>	<p>stamen are not visible</p>
<p>pointed petals</p>	<p>main flower is made of smaller flowers</p>	<p>petals have spots or stripes</p>



columbine



ixora



lantana



coneflower



zinnia



peony



jewel weed



yellow tiger lily



"bird of paradise" flower



feather
celosia



firecracker flower



yucca



astilbe



fuchsia



rose



plumbago



"brass buttons"



lobelia



"bleeding hearts"



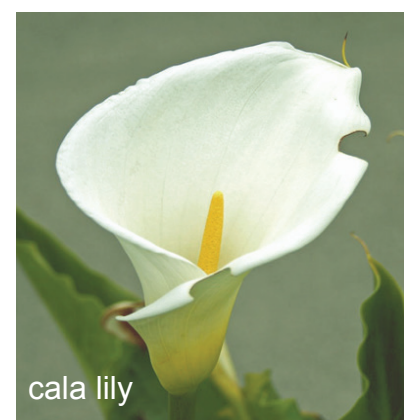
buttercup



aster



daffodil



cala lily



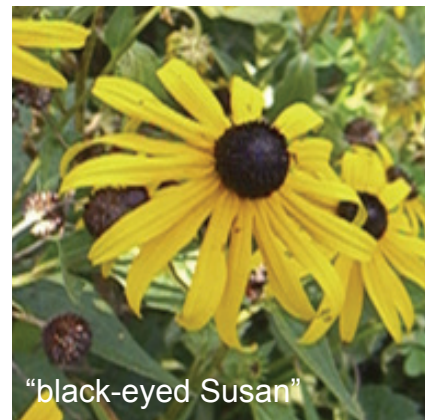
daisy



marigold



phlox



"black-eyed Susan"



grape hyacinth



vinca



nasturtium



foxglove



hydrangea



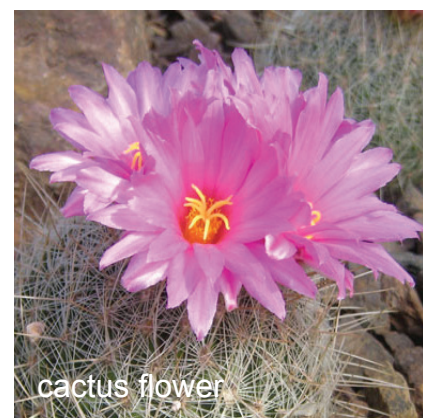
snapdragon



lily of the valley



primrose



cactus flower



honeysuckle



shrimp flower



geranium



coreopsis



Jack-in-the-pulpit



green pepper



begonia



flossflower



water lily



joint-vetch



red salvia



yarrow



anthurium



hosta



dahlia



Queen Anne's lace



pansy



green bean



potentilla



pink globe amaranth



strawberry



thistle



bush clover



sunflower



wood sorrel ("false clover")



tomato



trumpet vine



hibiscus



wild carrot



poppy



bearded iris



rhododendron



white clover



azalea



petunia



day lily