

BLOOMING FLOWERS

A flower is a plant that has special parts that help it grow and make seeds. When the flower gets enough sun, water, and food from the soil, it starts to grow and stretch. And just like you might stretch your arms to reach for a toy, the flower stretches its petals to open up and get the things it needs.

A flower is made up of several parts that help it grow! The main parts of the flower are:

1. **Petals:** These are the colorful parts of the flower that attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.
2. **Stamens:** The parts of the flower that produce pollen.
3. **Pistil:** The parts of the flower that receive the pollen and produce seeds.
4. **Sepals:** These are the small leaves at the base of the flower that protect the flower before it blooms.

To bloom, a flower needs sunlight, water, and nutrients from the soil. Once it has enough of these things, it will grow and its petals will open. When the stamens release pollen, it can be carried by pollinators to the pistil, where it will fertilize the plant and help it make seeds. This is how the flower continues to grow.

So, that's how flowers bloom - they stretch and open up to show off their special parts and make new plants!

MATERIALS

Foam petals (3)

Straw

String

Dowel

3M tape square

Masking Tape

Scissors

INSTRUCTIONS

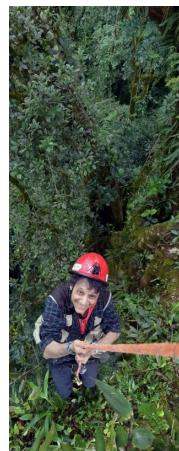
1. Cut the straw into three equal pieces.
2. Tape one section of the straw to the bottom of the foam petal, and repeat for the other two petals (the straws should be taped parallel to the flower).
3. Take 1 piece of string and tape it to the top of the petal, opposite the side with the straw. After it's secure, thread the string through the straw.
4. Attach the other two strings in the same way on the other petals, and thread them through the two straws.
5. Cut the 3M foam square in half.
6. Remove one side of the adhesive and wrap the foam around the dowel, about two fingerspaces from the top.
7. Remove the other side of the adhesive from the sticky foam square and attach the three foam petals around the dowel, one by one, and press to secure with the straws facing outward.
8. You may add extra tape around the base of the petals to reinforce.
9. Pull the strings gently and watch your flower bloom!

STEM CAREER PROFILE

A **botanist** is a scientist who studies plants, including flowers, trees, and grasses. They learn how plants grow, how they make seeds, and how they interact with the environment. Some botanists work outside in nature, exploring forests, fields, or gardens, while others work in labs to study tiny details like seeds and pollen. Botanists help us understand how plants keep our world healthy by giving us food, clean air, and shelter for animals. Their work helps protect plants so they can continue to support life on Earth.

STEM SUPERSTAR

Dr. Nalini Nadkarni is a botanist known as the "Queen of the Forest Canopy" for her groundbreaking research on rainforest treetops. She studies how plants and animals live high above the ground and how forests help keep our planet healthy. Dr. Nadkarni is also passionate about sharing science with others, creating programs for kids, writing books, and working with artists to show why trees and plants matter. Her work inspires people to explore nature and follow their curiosity in science.

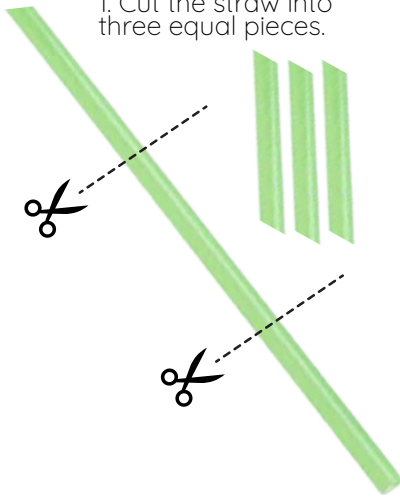


Rosie Riveters is a non-profit organization that develops girls' - from diverse backgrounds - confidence, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills through our hands-on and interactive STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) projects.

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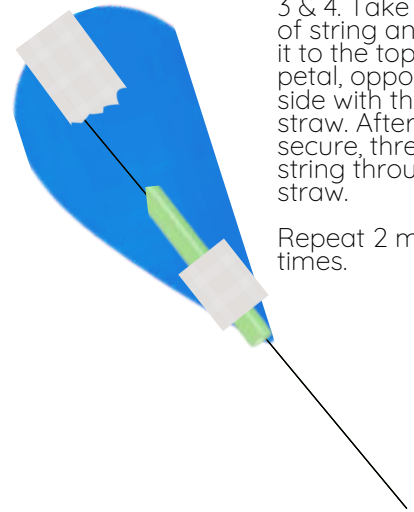
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2. Tape one section of the straw to the bottom of the foam petal, and repeat for the other two petals (the straws should be taped parallel to the flower).

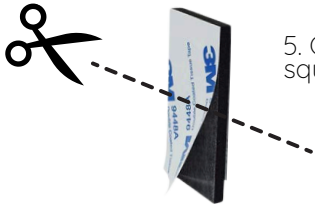


3 & 4. Take 1 piece of string and tape it to the top of the petal, opposite the side with the straw. After it's secure, thread the string through the straw.



Repeat 2 more times.

5. Cut the 3M foam square in half.



6. Remove one side of the adhesive and wrap the foam around the dowel, about two fingerspaces from the top.



7. Remove the other side of the adhesive from the sticky foam square and attach the three foam petals around the dowel, one by one, and press to secure with the straws facing outward. Reinforce the petals with tape to secure.



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