

Plants and Flowers



Georgia O'Keeffe - Red Poppy, 1927



Hokusai - Poppies and Yellow Butterfly



Judith Leyster
Tulip from Her Tulip Book, 1643



Yayoi Kusama
Ready to Blossom in the morning 1989

Hi Everyone,

Throughout art history, flowers have been one of the most beloved subjects for painters.

Few things are as beautiful as flowers, so it's no wonder that they've attracted the attention of artists from ancient times to the present. Beyond sheer beauty, flowers provide rich opportunities to play with colour and form. Their vibrant blossoms have long provided artists with inspiration.

Last week we looked at Collections, Botanical Artists are like collectors. If you were to draw a picture of a leaf or a flower as accurately as you could, so that every detail of the object was perfectly copied, then you would probably be a botanical illustrator.

In London, we have two amazing flower collections Kew Gardens and Chelsea Physic Garden. Click on the links below to explore the gardens and find out who are the heroes and villains of the plant world, which trees stink and plants that eat meat!

Have a go at the tasks below and send me some of your fantastic efforts.

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<https://www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk/pages/category/learning-resources>

<https://www.kew.org/learning/learning-at-home>

ART

Activity 1 - Art Appreciation – I wonder...

Take a look at these art works by famous artists



Marc Quinn - Radioactive Nurseries of Enceladus (in the Night Garden), 2010



Ambrosius Bosschaert - Still Life of Flowers, 1614

Look really closely at these artworks. Talk to a family member about what you see.

What differences /similarities do you notice?

Look closely at these artworks for 30 seconds, look away and see how many things you can remember.

How do you think these artworks have been made?

What do you notice about the backgrounds of both of these artworks?

Activity 2 – Step-by-step how to draw a stargazer lily



Hazel Wilks, Botanical artist, suggests '*Stargazers are bold and beautiful flowers. Whether you are drawing them in ink, or coloured pencil, or painting them in watercolour, they make for an ideal subject for beginners.*'. If you look at them closely they have vibrant and delicate colours. They have large showy flowers and the petals have lovely organic, curving lines. The floral structures, such as anthers and stigmas, are large and can be viewed easily by the naked eye. Some varieties have dark spots on the petals which add interest and are ideal for improving your observational drawing technique. Use the step-by-step guide on the link below, or use the images here to draw from. You could create a piece inspired by Kusama's *Ready to Blossom in the Morning*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjh5qHgoxtk>

Activity 3 – Pressing Flowers

Collect flowers, grasses or leaves from your garden, or the next time you go for a walk (remember to check with an adult first).

Use a piece of recycled cardboard as a base.

Lay your collection onto a piece of tissue paper or newspaper.

Cover with another layer of tissue paper or newspaper and put a large heavy book over the top.

Leave for 2-3 weeks – you will need to be patient!

Carefully take away the top layer of paper, your flowers should be flat, dry and translucent.

You could draw or paint your flowers, grasses and leaves.

The link below will give you lots of creative ideas on how to use your pressed flowers.

<https://www.redtedart.com/how-to-press-flowers/#:~:text=Use%20Tissue%20Paper&text=add%20a%20layer%20of%20tissue,the%20flowers%20to%20dry%20completely.>

Activity 4 – Create your own flower



My sister sent me these beautiful flower mash ups.
Use the link below and make your own.

https://pdfhost.io/v/tyTCiQnf4_Create_your_own_flower_pdfpdf.pdf

Activity 5 –Make an egg carton flower necklace and garland



Use egg cartons, paint or felt tip pens to create a bright flower necklace or garland.

Click on the links below to guide you.

What other 3d flower sculptures could you make?

<https://theimaginationtree.com/egg-carton-flowers-necklace/>

<https://theimaginationtree.com/egg-carton-flowers/>