

Pretty Pipe Cleaner Flowers

Simple STEM Activities You Can Do at Home

Purpose:	The purpose of this activity is to make a model of a flower and then identify and describe each of the basic parts.
Standard:	<p>SKL2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to compare the similarities and differences in groups of organisms.</p> <p>b. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants can be grouped according to their features.</p> <p>S1L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the basic needs of plants and animals.</p> <p>a. Develop models to identify the parts of a plant—root, stem, leaf, and flower.</p>
Materials:	3 red (or other bright color) pipe cleaners, 2 green pipe cleaners, 1 yellow pipe cleaner, 1 black pipe cleaner, scissors.
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cut each of the pipe cleaners in half and the black one into quarters. 2. Twist the green and yellow pipe cleaners together at one end. 3. Grab the 6 red pipe cleaners and align them around the yellow pipe cleaner. 4. Use a green pipe cleaner to wrap all of them together tightly in the middle. 5. Bend the red pipe cleaners to space them out from the middle yellow one. 6. Roll up the yellow pipe cleaner to form the middle of the flower. 7. Roll up the red pipe cleaners to form the petals. 8. Use the two green pipe cleaners to form leaves on the stem. 9. Use the black pipe cleaners to form roots on the end of the stem. 10. If time permits, use a pipe cleaner bee to fly around and “pollinate” each of the flowers.
Science Behind It:	<p>Plants are living things that grow in the earth. Plants have and a stem, leaves, roots and usually flowers. The stem connects the roots to the leaves, helps transport water and food, and provides support for the leaves and flowers. Leaves make food for a plant by using sunlight to turn carbon dioxide and water into sugar. This process is called photosynthesis. The roots of a plant absorb water and minerals for the plant and they also anchor and support the plant. The flowers of a plant help the plant to make seeds so that it can reproduce. The petals of flowers are often brightly colored and are designed to attract bees, birds, butterflies and other insects so that pollen can be transferred from one flower to the next. This process is called pollination and it allows for seeds to be produced to that the next generation of plants can grow.</p> <p>Can you make a model of a flower using just pipe cleaners?</p>
Questions to Ask:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you think it is important for most flowers to be brightly colored? 2. How do you think leaves are designed to absorb as much sunlight as possible?