



Flower Sequence Sketch

ART & NATURE • GET OUTSIDE! • STEM

Some of a field biologist's most important tools are pencils and paper. Sketching nature helps scientists to identify species, make observations about health, adaptations, and life cycle, and can even spark the discovery of new scientific theories that change the way we look at the world. For example, Charles Darwin used his sketches of finches in the Galapagos Islands in order to help him discover the theory of evolution. Practice your own observation skills with this Flower Sequence Sketch activity!

Materials:

Paper, or a Nature Journal

Pencil

Flowers

Crayons, or colored pencils (optional)

Directions:

1. Gather some paper, or a nature journal, and pencil.
2. Time to find some flowers! Head outside into your yard or neighborhood, and find a bed of flowers, or a tree with multiple blossoms. Choose a species that there are multiples of, and not just one flower that stands on its own. For example, if there is only one tulip in your yard, but lots of dandelions, choose the dandelions. If you have a bouquet of flowers in a vase in your house, that will work, as well.
3. Find a flower that looks "picture-perfect." It is fully bloomed, and still vibrant and healthy. Without picking it, sketch this flower, and make notes about your observations.
4. Find another flower of the same species that is still only a "bud." It hasn't bloomed yet, and the petals are still tightly wound. Sketch this flower, and make notes about your observations.
5. Find a third flower that has bloomed, and has now begun to wilt. Sketch this flower, and make notes about your observations.
6. Find 1-2 more flowers that are in between the "bud" phase, the "picture-perfect" phase, and the "wilting" phase. Order your drawings from the beginning of a flower's life to the end.
7. (Optional) Color your drawings using crayons or colored pencils. If you feel inspired, create an art exhibit featuring your flower drawings. What would each sketch be called?
8. (Optional) Have a friend or family member try to match your sketches to the particular flower in your yard. Did your observations help in identifying the flowers?



Activity Adapted from [Beetles Project Training](#)