**Fun with Flowers**

**Grades 1 – 6**

**Activity Overview**

Students have an inherent interest in things that are “different” – things that make them smile but at the same time use their intellect to make suggestions about the origin or items. This little exercise, which can be conducted in a number of different ways, depending upon the level involved (grade 1 students will need more direction than those in grade 6).

The focus of the exercise is for students to gain more of an appreciation for flowers – to raise their awareness of flowers in their environment and for them to relate more to the flowers that they will encounter in gardens, but particularly in places where flowers are sold at a retail level – the supermarket, garden centre or “big box” store where their parents frequent. The objective is to reach that awareness level, rather than an understanding of the processes involved in producing flowers for retail consumption.

The lesson involves a series of pictures of flowers that, although they look like flowers, also have characteristics that make them look like other items. The pictures are provided, along with the botanical name and a more generic name. Teachers are encouraged to pick and choose from the pictures and the list; some classes will need only a few of the pictures, but others might benefit from having the “whole package”.

**Curriculum Expectations**

This is an introductory “fun” activity for the students; alternatively, it could be used at the end of the study of flowers to lead into activities that are related to language arts or art.

At the same time, the lesson is not without its content. Some of the curriculum expectations that can be addressed with this activity include expectations that students will:

* investigate the physical characteristics of plants;
* investigate similarities and differences in the characteristics of various plants;
* demonstrate an understanding that plants have distinct characteristics;
* observe and compare the parts of a variety of plants;
* identify the major parts of plants;

**Background Information**

There are twenty-one (21) pictures in the attached presentation. The flowers, in order, are:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Shows | Name | Botanical Name | Credit |
| 1 | Title Page – Fun With Flowers | | | |
| 2 | Orchid that looks like the face of a monkey | Monkey Face Orchid | Dracula Simia | avaxnews.net |
| 3 | Orchid with what looks like either a bird or a moth – this one may be difficult for some students | Moth Orchid | Phalaenopsis | Christian Kneidinger |
| 4 | Red Lips – this one is sometimes called “Hooker’s Lips” but this reference should be avoided – just use “red lips” | Hooker’s (Red) Lips | Psychotria Elata | Unknown |
| 5 | White dancing girls | Dancing Girls | Impatiens Bequaertii | Unknown |
| 6 | Bumble Bee with mouth wide open | Laughing Bumble Bee | Ophrys bomybliflora | arastiralm.net |
| 7 | Looks like babies in a carry-case | Swaddled Babies | Anguloa Uniflora | Unknown |
| 8 | Kissing Parrots | Parrot Flower | Impatiens Psittacina | Unknown |
| 9 | Skulls – two images | Snap Dragon Seed Pod | Antirrhinum | Unknown |
| 10 | Two ducks – purple | Flying Duck Orchid | Calaena Major | Michael Prideaux |
| 11 | Tiger’s Face | Orchid | - | Funniestmemes.com |
| 12 | Alien with mouth open and looks like holding a basin | Happy Alien | Calceolaria Uniflora | Butterfly Voyages |
| 13 | White Angel with wings and a hood | Angel Orchid | Habenaria Grandifloriformis | gardensofeaden.blogspot.com |
| 14 | White bird with wings spread | White Egret Orchid | Habenaria Radiata | Rachel Scott-Renouf |
| 15 | Evil-looking mask | Darth Vader | Aristolochia Salvadorensis | hortus.leidenuniv.nl |
| 16 | Skull image | Rose that Looks like a skull |  | wherecoolthingshappen.com |
| 17 | Three smiling monkeys | Monkey Face Orchid | Dracula Simia | Unknown |
| 18 | Ballerina | Orchid |  | 500px.com |
| 19 | Dove | Dover Orchid | Peristeria elata | Reji |
| 20 | Flames | Flame Lily | Gloriosa superba | Dinesh Valke |
| 21 | Dragon | Cannonball Tree | Couroupita guianensis | Wahj |
| 22 | Bees Nest | Beehive Ginger | Zingiber spectabile | Kristi |

**Teacher Preparation**

Preview the powerpoint or keynote version of the photographs of flowers. Decide how you will use the pictures with the students (see Lesson Plan below) based on the grade level of the students. Some younger students will need more direction than others.

A simple chart for students to record their impressions can be provided or students can develop their own charts or record their impressions in a format commonly used in the classroom (ranging from large sheets of paper to inputting into ipads).

**Lesson Plan**

Showing the powerpoint (or keynote) presentation will generate a number of questions for student response.

The lesson can be used in small groups or as teacher-directed.

1. Identify what you think each flower looks like – a person, a thing, an animal.
2. What kind of flower do you think is represented by the photo? (this might be a difficult question for younger students)
3. Have you ever seen a flower similar to this anywhere? If so, where was it?
4. Which of these flowers do you think are grown in greenhouses? Why would they be grown in greenhouses?
5. These flowers are “fun” flowers. Did they make you smile? Why?
6. Write a short description of the flower using any of the terms about parts of the flower that you know (e.g. petals, stamen)
7. If these flowers are “fun” flowers and make us smile, does giving flowers to someone for an occasion, usually make them smile? Why?
8. How would you feel if someone brought you flowers?
9. Draw a picture of a flower or a bunch of flowers.