

FLOWER POWER: "PUTRICIA" THE CORPSE FLOWER

SUGGESTED AGE RANGE: 3RD–8TH GRADE

On July 11, 2018 our titan arum, or corpse flower, bloomed for the first time since we received the plant as a seedling in August of 2000! Thousands of people came out to see the magnificent bloom, which our horticulture staff lovingly named "Putricia." Explore the resources below to answer the questions and complete the activities.

MATERIALS

[Corpse Flower Update Video](#) with Director of Horticulture Steve LaWarre

[Time Lapse Video of Putricia the Corpse Flower](#)

[Corpse Flower FAQ Sheet](#)

Pencil and paper for answering questions and sketching

Found objects

Art Materials (paper, paint, crayons, markers, etc.)

VOCABULARY

Corpse Flower: a common name for the *Amorphophallus titanum*, or titan arum plant; named for the strong scent it gives off when blooming, similar to the smell of rotting meat.

Haiku: a Japanese form of poetry or a poem written in this form. A haiku has three lines, with the first line containing five syllables, the second line containing seven syllables, and the third line containing five syllables again.

Observation: the act of careful watching and listening; the activity of paying close attention to someone or something in order to get information.

Pollinate: to give (a plant) pollen from another plant of the same kind so that seeds will be produced.

Pollinator: something (such as an insect) that pollinates flowers.

Seedling: young plant that is grown from seed.

Three-Dimensional: having or seeming to have length, width, and depth.

Two-Dimensional: having only two dimensions (such as length and width); flat.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Write About It (Language Arts, 3rd–5th)

Imagine that you are an unusual and unique flower.

Describe yourself using the five senses, then give yourself a name.

I look like:

I smell like:

I sound like:

I taste like:

I feel like:

My name is:

Become a Science Sleuth (Science, 3rd–5th)



Compare the titan arum (using the information in the video or blog links above) to a plant near your home. After careful observation, fill in the chart below. Optional: add a new question to the chart.

Questions	Plant Name: Titan arum	Plant Name:
What is the general description of the plant? (size, colors, leaf shape, flowers, location, etc.)		
What type of pollinators does the plant attract?		
How do you think the plant attracts those pollinators?		
In what habitat does the plant thrive?		

Haiku (Language Arts, 3rd–8th)

Write a poem or a haiku about the titan arum. A haiku is a traditional Japanese poem with three lines and 17 syllables (a 5-7-5 syllable pattern) that is about the natural world.

Example:

In tickley-toe grass,
A buttercup offers up
Yellow nose kisses

Create It

Three-Dimensional (Visual Arts, 3rd–8th)

Create a weird and wild flower! Gather a variety of objects around your home that could represent stems, leaves, petals, roots, etc. and assemble them creatively to represent a 3-dimensional flower. Give your one-of-a-kind sculpture a title. Challenge your family to create their own weird and wild flowers to create a complete sculpture exhibition.

Two-Dimensional (Visual Arts, 3rd–8th)

Use your imagination and whatever art tools you have handy to create a drawing, painting, or sketch of a weird and wild flower. Think about shape (are the leaves or petals round, oval, pointed), size (is your flower small, or is it gigantic) texture (is your flower smooth or bumpy), color (is your flower bright and showy or subdued and camouflaged).

Optional: include notes about your flower's origin or habitat, its blooming conditions or its smell!

References:

Definitions for vocabulary sourced from:

<https://learnersdictionary.com/> and
wordcentral.com



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