April showers bring May flowers...

Everything about a flower is meant to be attractive. A flower's color, shape, scent and the nectar inside attract helpers such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. These helpers are called pollinators. To find out why flowers need pollinators, we need to take a closer look inside the flower.

Materials needed

- *Flowers like daffodils or store-bought alstroemeria, aka Peruvian lily*
- *Print outs of The Power of Flowers sheet (included in this project)*
- *Tape, contact paper or glue*

Observe, like a scientist

- *Brainstorm a list of different types of flowers. How are these flowers alike (color, smell, stems, petals, "stuff" in the center, etc.)?*
- *Look at a real flower. How is it like the flowers you'd put on the list? Describe how the real flower looks, smells and feels. Draw a picture of the real flower on the right hand side of The Power of Flowers science sheet.*

A look inside

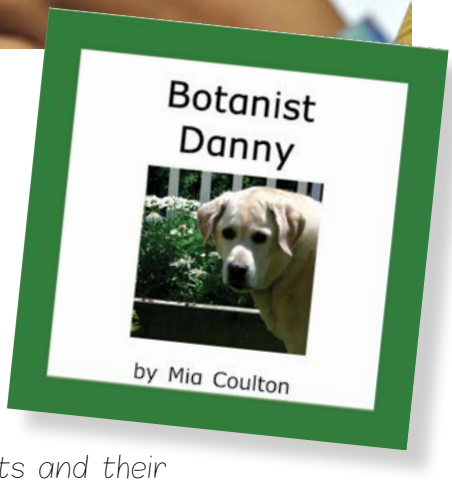
1. The petals on the flower protect the inside of the flower, but also attract pollinators with their bright colors, shapes and patterns. Gently touch the petals of the flower. How do they feel? Count the petals. Carefully remove them, one by one, and set them aside.

2. Look at the long slender tube in the center of the inside of the flower. This is the "girl" part of the flower, called the pistil. She is surrounded by several shorter stalks that have oval-shaped balls on their ends. These are the stamen, or the "boy" parts of the flower. Can you see a yellowish dust on the stamen? It is pollen!

3. Some flowers make nectar, a sweet tasting liquid, inside the flower. Pollinators enter the flower to get nectar and become covered with pollen. The pollen rubs off onto the sticky top of the pistils (called the stigma) of this, and other flowers. The pollen travels down the pistil tube (called the style) toward the bottom of the flower.

4. Find the wide part at the base of the pistil. This is the ovary. Carefully use scissors to cut part of the base away and look inside. You will find teeny, tiny eggs. These are called ovules. If the pollen travels all the way down to these ovules, a seed will grow. Seeds are baby plants! The ovary will swell up to protect the growing baby seeds, creating a fruit. Fruits are the swollen ovaries of flowers.

5. Arrange the parts from your flower on the left hand side of The Power of Flowers paper. Secure them with glue, tape or contact paper.



Extension

Plants provide us with oxygen, food and medicine. Botanists are scientists who study plants and their importance. All kinds of plants are studied by botanists, including flowers, trees, grasses, cacti and even seaweed. Read **Botanist Danny** to learn more about what it would be like to be a botanist.

The Power of Flowers

My Flower	A Drawing of My Flower
Attach the parts from your flower below and draw lines to label each part. peta pistil stamen pollen ovary eggs (ovules)	

Observations:

1. My flowers looks _____
2. My flower feels _____
3. My flowers smells _____