



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727  
(231) 536-3369 | [www.miravenhill.org](http://www.miravenhill.org)  
[info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org)

*Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.*

**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

## Flower dissection

Most flowers have four main parts: sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels or pistils. The sepals and petals protect the reproductive parts of the flower and attract insects for pollination. The stamens are the male part whereas the pistils or carpels are the female part of the flower. Most flowers contain both male and female parts. Others may contain one of the two parts. The stamens are made up of two parts: the anther and the filament. The anther is the part of the stamen that produces pollen. The filament supports the anther to make pollen available to insects that aid in cross-pollination. The pistils are made up of three parts: the stigma, the style, and the ovary. The stigma is the part that catches the pollen. The style is a tube where caught pollen is transferred from the stigma to the ovary. The ovary is located at the base of the style and this is where eggs are produced and can combine with the pollen when it's present to form seeds. A daffodil works well for a flower dissection. Pick one. Pull the sepals off. They may look like petals and be green or colored, but are outside the petals. Lay them out in a row and count them. Pull the petals off carefully, lay them in a row and count them. Look for the stamen with their anthers and filaments. Can you see the pollen on the anther? It's falling off the amaryllis anthers. Pull the stamen off, lay them in a row and count them. The sepals, petals and stamen are either multiples of 3, if a monocot or multiples of 4 or 5, if dicots. Find the pistil. Usually, there is only one pistil. Find the stigma at the top, the style or tube and the ovary at the bottom. Have an adult carefully slice the ovary open with a razor blade or sharp knife. Find the eggs inside. Easy to see eggs in daffodil, but not on the amaryllis. Can you count the eggs? Try another kind of flower. Some flowers have only male or female parts. Some flowers are compound or composite flowers. They look like a single flower, but are really many florets together, as in a daisy or a sunflower. Draw pictures of some flowers that you find in your yard or in the woods. If you have access to a camera or with the camera on your phone, start collecting pictures of flowers. Group them by color, if you want or by location. Have fun!



1 Flower dissection supplies



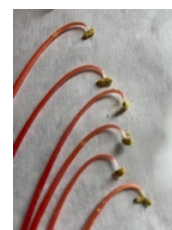
2 Parts of a daffodil



3 Pistil with eggs



4 Parts of an amaryllis



5 Pollen on anthers