DISCOVERING THE PARTS OF A FLOWER WITH BUDDY BISON

Mount Rainier National Park (WA) is famous for its forest and subalpine wildflower blooms, such as the White Avalanche lily. Not only is the flower's beauty incredible to see, it also plays an important role in the Mount Rainier ecosystem. This flower, like many, contains both **female** and **male** reproductive parts, which means it can produce ovules and pollen. Other flowers only contain either male **or** female parts. Learn about the different flower parts and their functions below, then dissect a flower from your backyard or neighborhood and identify its parts.

FLOWER VOCABULARY

Pistil - The female part of the flower which includes the following:

Stigma: The sticky bulb center of a flower. Pollen sticks to the stigma for fertilization.
Style: A stem that holds up the stigma.
Ovule: Is fertilized by pollen and becomes a seed.

Stamen - The male part of the flower which includes the following:
Anther: A fuzzy, yellow capsule that holds pollen.
Filament: A stem that supports the anther.

Petals: The most recognizable parts of a flower. Their colors and shapes attract the attention of pollinators such as bees, which carry pollen from flower to flower.

Sepals: Green leaves at the base of a flower. They protect the flower bud before it blooms.
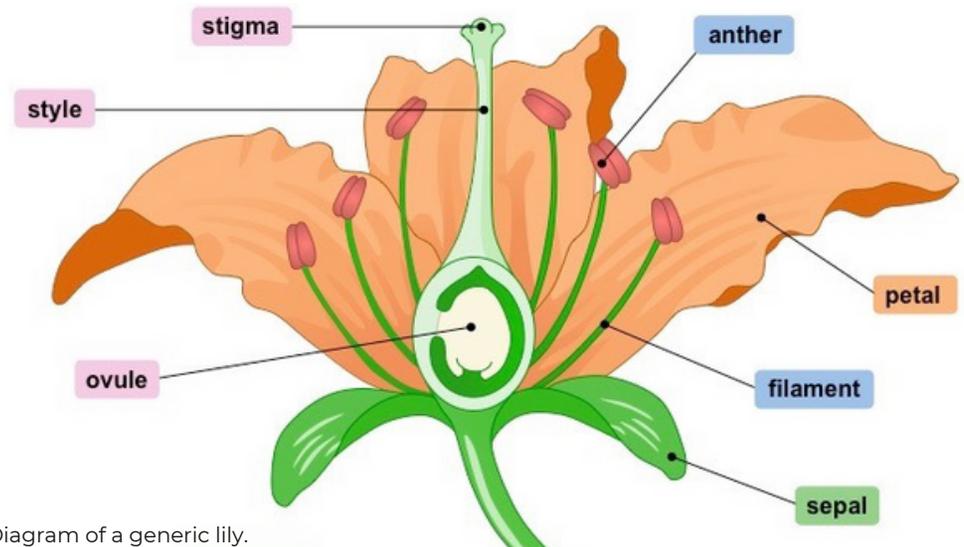

Diagram of a generic lily.
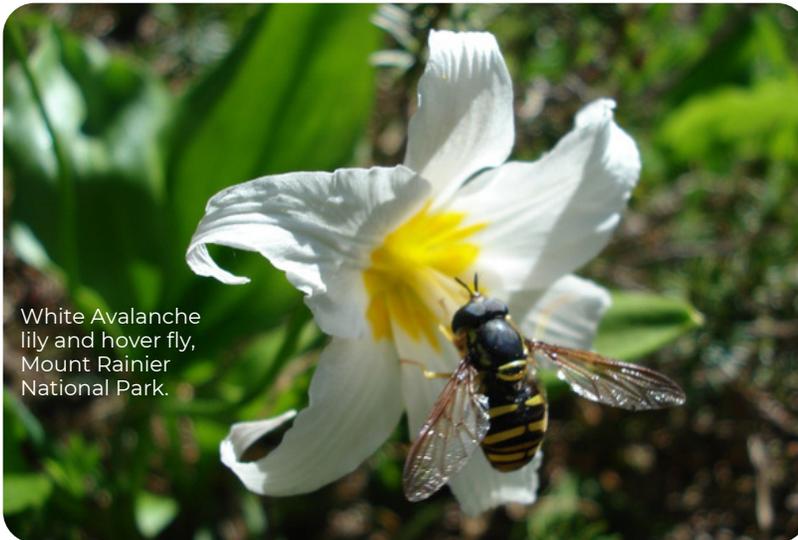
White Avalanche lily and hover fly, Mount Rainier National Park.

MATERIALS

- Assorted flowers (medium to large in size for visibility)
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Paper (a large sheet or multiple sheets)
- Markers/crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create seven sections (one for each part of the flower) on paper using markers and/or crayons.
   Hint: Label your sections using the vocabulary in the purple box.
2. Carefully take apart a flower using tweezers and scissors.
3. Sort the parts into their sections as you go.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with other flowers.
5. Compare the various parts, noting how the same parts from different flowers may or may not look alike.