



Campbell Creek Science Center

Draw like a Naturalist: Wildflowers

Naturalists use drawings to observe subtle details about nature. Sketch the different parts of a plant and learn how to distinguish wildflowers from one another.

Directions

1. Sit down next to a flowering plant. Take time to observe the entire plant, from stem to flower. What do you notice?
2. Start your wildflower drawing from the ground up. Draw the stem, followed by the leaves, ending with the flower. Sketch the general shape of each section and gradually add detail. Here are features to pay attention to:

Flower

Identify the overall shape. Is it flat and round, bell shaped, or irregularly shaped? How many petals are there?

Look at how each flower is attached to the stem. Include those details in your drawing.

Leaf Arrangement

Locate the position where the leaves meet the stem.

Are the leaves on the stem:

opposite alternate whorled



Are there leaves at the base:



Stem

Draw the stem from the ground to the base of the topmost flower. Is the stem thick or thin? Does it have any hairs?

5 petal flowers

Leaf Shape

Notice the shape of the leaves. Do they look like ovals, arrows, or hearts? Are they long and straight?

Sabrina Farmer

Heart-shaped leaves

Materials

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons (optional)
- Wildflower field guide (optional)

Questions

- What new details did you notice about the plant?
- Which part of the flower was the easiest to draw? Which was the most challenging?

Use your drawing to identify the flower from a field guide or website.

Note or draw additional details:

- Color of the flower and the leaves
- Hairs, veins, or thorns on the stem or leaves
- Flower reproductive parts, such as the stamen or pistil
- Texture of the leaf edge, such as toothed
- Berries or seeds forming

