Plant-venture: Rose

Plant-ventures are a way to learn about common plants and have your own plant adventure!

Learn!

Roses are in the Rosaceae family of plants. A plant family is a group of plants that are related, and it’s how people think about different types of plants. Strawberries and apples are in the Rosaceae family, too!

Where do roses grow?
Full sun: at least 6 hours of direct sunlight each day
Average garden soil: consisting of broken down rock and organic matter (though some wild roses can grow in any soil)
Good drainage: flows at a moderate rate without allowing water to pool or puddle

Can you find a rose?
How many petals does it have?
What does it smell like?
Can you identify flower parts?

Roses can get many diseases, and many insects like to eat roses. People have bred some rose varieties to resist diseases and pests, and these types of roses usually need more care from people.

Duke Gardens' roses are fighting the Rose Rosette Virus, which makes roses grow strangely. The leaves turn purple, flower buds grow in very tight clusters, and eventually the plant dies.

Have you noticed any roses growing strangely?

To continue exploring the history of roses and their relationship with the environment check out these websites below:

web.extension.illinois.edu/roses/history.cfm
www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/plants/roses.html
www.heirloomroses.com/info/care/roses/introduction-to-roses
bouqs.com/blog/rose-giving-traditions
What do roses mean around the world?

In Hungary roses represent someone's undying love for a lost friend, spouse, or relative so they are used at funerals.

In South Korea on Coming-of-Age Day, the day 19 year olds become 20, bouquets of roses are exchanged.

In Finland to show appreciation to friends on Friend’s Day people exchange roses.

In Catalonia there is a legend that says that St. George slayed a dragon to save the princess: where the dragon's blood spilled, roses sprang from the ground. Now they celebrate St. George’s Day by exchanging roses.

On Taiwan’s Valentine’s Day the number of roses exchanged is an important symbol. A single rose symbolizes one-and-only love. Eleven roses are given to a “special someone.” Ninety-nine roses are given to someone you'll love for eternity. One hundred eight roses means “Will you marry me?”

How do you use roses to celebrate?
Have you given or received roses or other flowers on special occasions?

People have used roses as a sign of love, sympathy or sorrow for hundreds of years.

Poems are a great way of expressing how you feel. Read the poem on the next page about roses. Then write your own poem about what flowers mean to you!
The rose is a rose, 
And was always a rose. 
But the theory now goes 
That the apple's a rose, 
And the pear is, and so's 
The plum, I suppose. 
The dear only knows 
What will next prove a rose. 
You, of course, are a rose - 
But were always a rose
The rose family of plants is 35 million years old, according to fossil records. Roses were probably first grown by people in China 5,000 years ago. Wild roses have 5 petals but others, the ones we often see in gardens, have been bred to have many more.

**Can you make a rose?**

### Make!

**Paper Roses**

1. Cut 4 4-inch squares from a sheet of paper.

2. Fold each square diagonally by bringing one corner to the opposite diagonal corner. Repeat for each square.

3. Fold one corner of the triangle base over the opposite side. Face each triangle base toward you. Bring 1 corner of each triangle base up to the middle of the opposite edge. Repeat for each triangle.

4. Fold the second corner over the base and the first corner. Repeat for each triangle.

5. Draw a petal shape from one side of the triangle to the other. Repeat for each triangle.

6. Cut along the petal outline for each triangle.
7. Cut the point off each petal.

8. Unfold the petals. Curl each petal edge around a toothpick or paper clip so it curves down.

9. Cut out petals from the flowers by cutting along the fold. Keep the first flower whole. Remove 1 petal from the second flower, 2 petals from the third flower, and 3 petals from the fourth flower. You can discard one of the 3 petal flowers.

10. Use a glue stick to glue the ends of the flower together to make a ring. Repeat for each flower.

11. Cut a circular piece of construction paper out and glue the base, the flower with no petals cut out, to it.

12. Using liquid glue attach the next flower, one with one petal missing, on top. Then attach flower with two petals missing. Continue until all flowers/petals have been attached.