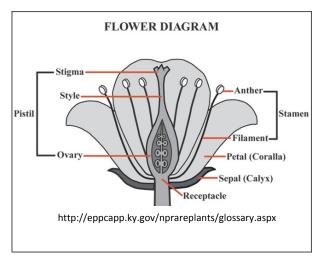
Flower Dissection

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Background Information:

Flowers are the reproductive parts of many plants. It may surprise you to know that flowers have female and male parts. The female part of the plant is called the pistil. It includes the stigma, style, and ovary (which contains the eggs). The male part is called the stamen. It includes the anther and filament. The anther holds the pollen (sperm) of the plant.

Using the flower provided by your teacher, take time to look for all the parts of the flower shown in the picture. If you are unsure of the parts, verify with your teacher before starting your dissection. After his/her approval, you may start the dissection. You



will be color coding the flower parts with the boxes as you examine them. As you find the parts, carefully cut them off and set aside. OPTION: Tape either one or all parts next to the box with the part's name, how many there are, and the function. Textbooks or other source of information (internet access) will be provided for students to look up the functions of the different flower parts.

Materials: Flowers, Scissors, Magnifying Glass, Resource Materials (textbook, internet), Tape (optional)

Directions for Dissection: On the back side of this sheet, fill in a box with the name, how many, and function of each part. Color code the box to match the flower part.

- 1. Find and count the sepals at the base of your flower. Why is the sepal important to the development of the flower?
- 2. Find and count the petals of your flower. Why are petals usually brightly colored?
- 3. Find both parts of the stamen on your plant (the male part—anther and filament). Why is is important for the anthers to be towards the top of the flower?
- 4. Find all three parts of the pistil on your plant (the female part—stigma, style, and ovary). Cut open the ovary. How many eggs are inside the ovary?

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