



Coffee Filter Flowers

Project adapted from firstpalette.com



Fresh Flowers can add a pop of color to any room in a moment's notice but after a few days they can begin to wilt and wither. Fake flowers are a nice alternative, but they can be expensive, and you limited to someone else's design. What is the solution? Make your own!

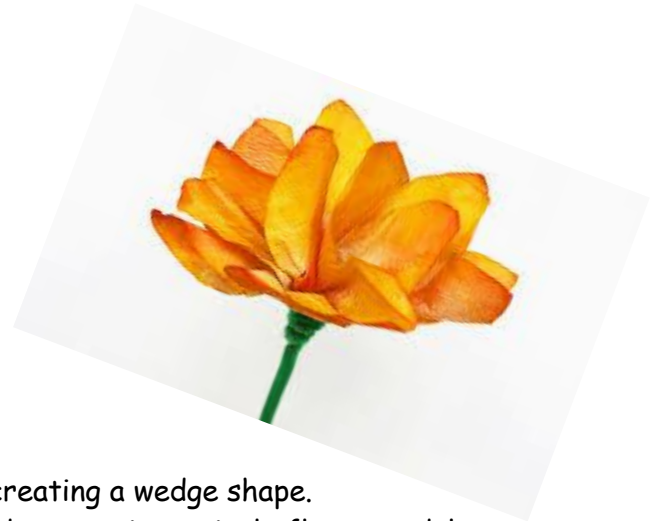
Objective: Learn how to make a beautiful flower arrangement using household items. Explore how color are is added to fresh cut flowers and how flowers in nature can be influenced by their environment.

Ages: 1st-12th Grade

Time: 1 hour-2 hours

Supplies:

- 1-5 Coffee filters
- Scissors
- Food coloring, markers or other water-soluble colors
- Pipe cleaner(s)
- Wax paper or newspaper
- Spray bottle
- Dropper or spoon



Activity Directions:

1. Take one coffee filter and fold it in half four times creating a wedge shape.
2. Using the scissors round the straight edge of the wedge creating a single flower pedal shape.
3. Open the coffee filter up. Optional: To make the flower petals fan out, cut straight down an inch from the edge on the creases made from folding the coffee filter.
4. Place the coffee filter flower on a sheet of wax paper or several layers of newspaper.
5. Color the flowers by using washable colors (markers, colored pencils, etc.) or food coloring.
 - Food coloring: Add a few drops of food coloring to one tablespoon of water in a small bowl. Spray the flower with a little bit of water. Using a spoon, put little drops of the food coloring mixture on the flower.
 - Washable colors: Draw a design on the coffee filter using washable colors. Spray the flower shapes with a little water. (Do not use too much or the color will run off.)
6. Let the flowers dry completely on the wax paper (or newspaper).
7. Once the flower is dry, pinch the center of the flower to bring the petals together. Wrap one end of a pipe cleaner tightly around the base of the flower and form a stem with the rest.
8. Join two or more flowers together to create a fuller flower or even a bouquet

Facilitation Questions:

- What patterns and colors would can you create when making these flowers?
- Did you create a new color by adding different colors together? What it expected or unexpected?
- How do you think a coffee filter mimics how plants use water?
- How do you think adding colored to water to plants might influence the coloring?
- What jobs are associated with making decorations by utilizing flowers of various types (real and fake)?