



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

FLOWER

Study

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THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



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Columbine

A favorite among hummingbirds, columbines are hardy wildflowers found all over the northern hemisphere.

» Flower Study «

Columbines come in a variety of lovely colors and are quite easy to recognize once you're familiar with their unique shape. Look at the picture below. Every columbine has five modified petals with both a blade and a spur. The petal spur is shaped like a long horn ending with a knob and is filled with nectar, perfect for hummingbirds and long-tongued insects. The petals are surrounded by five colorful sepals in the shape of a star.



Type: Perennial
Scientific name: *Aquilegia* spp.
Family: Ranunculaceae
Native to: Northern hemisphere



Dahlia

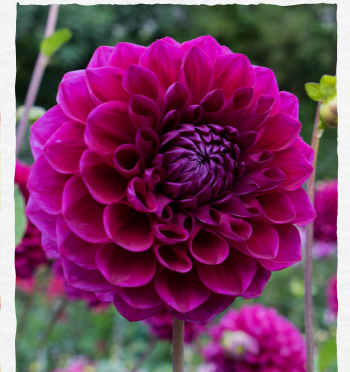
Did you know that the dahlia was originally classified as a vegetable, not as a flower? That's because the root of the flower is an edible tuber, kind of like a potato! The undeniable beauty of the flower top, though, has made them popular in gardens worldwide. Dahlias come in almost any color and size; some are as small as a button and some can grow as big as your head!

Flower Study

Look closely at the petals of the dahlia. Do you see how each petal curls into itself? Notice how the innermost petals curl the most. The many rows of petals on the dahlia flower create a delightful pom-pom look.



Type: Perennial
Scientific Name:
Dahlia spp.
Family: Asteraceae
Native to: Mexico
and Central America





Type: Perennial
Scientific Name: *Gardenia* spp.
Family: Rubiaceae
Native to: Tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, Madagascar, and the Pacific Islands



Gardenia

Gardenia, which grows in tropical and subtropical climates, is part of the coffee family. The creamy-white flowers of these woody evergreen shrubs have an intensely wonderful fragrance.

» Flower Study «

Look at the white gardenia petals in the picture above. Imagine plucking one of the petals off and rubbing it gently across your cheek. Can you imagine how velvety soft it must feel? Notice the dazzling spiral shape of every gardenia flower. Even the flower buds are in the form of a spiral!





Lilac

Lilacs grow on bushes that can grow as tall and as wide as a small house! Think carefully where you want to plant a lilac bush, because it can live 200 years! The summer blossoms smell incredible. Try never to miss a chance to sniff blooming lilacs if you pass them.

Type: Perennial
Scientific Name: *Syringa* spp.
Family: Oleaceae
Native to: Eastern Europe and Asia

» Flower Study «

Grab a piece of paper and a pencil and draw a lilac flower. Look closely—is your drawing perfectly symmetrical? Take a moment to consider how amazing it is that each of the tens of thousands of simple four-petal blossoms is perfectly symmetrical!



Lily of the Valley

These dainty, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers become red berries after the petals drop. But don't eat them! Every part of this plant is poisonous. It makes a charming ground cover for cooler, shaded areas.

Flower Study

If you were the size of a field mouse, wouldn't it be lovely to pretend you were in a symphony playing these bells? Picture yourself sitting on the strappy green leaf. Imagine that each delightful bell has a different sound, and you create a melody as lovely to the ear as the flower is to your sight and smell.



Type: Perennial
Scientific Name: *Convallaria majalis*
Family: Asparagaceae
Native to: Asia and Europe





Plumeria

You may recognize these flowers as those sometimes used to make Hawaiian leis because of their large size, lovely scent, and appealing colors. They are most fragrant at night to entice sphinx moths to pollinate them. They are tricking the moths; they actually have no nectar.

Type: Perennial

Scientific Name:

Plumeria spp.

Family:

Apocynaceae

Native to: Central

America, Mexico,

and the Caribbean

Flower Study

Have you ever held a plumeria? They have a sturdy, rubbery feel. Look at the center of the flower and how it extends outward in a fantastic spiral. Imagine stringing plumerias together to make a beautiful lei. What colors would you use? To whom would you give your fragrant lei?





Type: Perennial or annual
Scientific Name: *Ranunculus* spp.
Family: Ranunculaceae
Native to: North America

Ranunculus

If you want to grow flowers perfect for cutting and using in arrangements, try the ranunculus. Its tall stem is perfectly straight and strong, and the mesmerizingly beautiful flower heads, which come in a variety of bold colors, are enough to make any bouquet glow.



» Flower Study «

Can you imagine trying to count the layers and layers of soft, thin ranunculus petals, all tightly bound together into one perfect flower head? How many petals do you think one flower can hold?

Snapdragon

These hardy flowers grow wild across rocky areas of North America, Asia, Europe, and Northern Africa. The flowers bloom starting from the bottom of the stem to the top. Once they have all bloomed, they make a magnificent display! Snapdragons come in just about every color imaginable.

» Flower Study «

Snapdragons are named for their resemblance to the mythical creature. Next time you come across a snapdragon, reach out and pinch the flower gently on each side with your thumb and forefinger; the “mouth” will open with each squeeze!

Type: Annual or Perennial

Scientific Name:
Antirrhinum spp.

Family: Plantaginaceae

Native to: Europe, North Africa, and North America





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One of the main purposes of The Good and the Beautiful is to help children feel wonder and appreciation for all of God's creations. In this unique, interactive book, children have the chance to discover forty stunning flowers found around the world, notice incredible patterns, and use their imaginations as they experience delightful details and learn the names of some everyday and unusual flowers.



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