

Purchasing Flower Power!

Grade Level
5-6

Classroom Time
One or two 40-min. periods

Materials/Tools
for 24-30 students

- Coffee filters
- Crayola® Classic Washable Markers
- Crayola Colored Pencil Classpack®
- Crayola Fabric Crayons
- Crayola Glitter Glue
- Crayola Model Magic® Value Pack (optional)
- Green floral tape
- Hole punch
- Iron (for adult use only)
- Newsprint
- Oaktag

Tips

Apply pressure when coloring coffee filters to achieve best color results.

Place newsprint under drawing paper for better control during coloring.

Resources

Longwood Gardens website:
www.longwoodgardens.org
Rocket Minds™: Spin, Spend, and Earn (ages 8+); *Think-ama: Jink Checkers* (ages 6+)

Vase of Flowers, Jan Davidsz de Heem reproduction, p. 46

Visual Arts Standard 5
Mathematics Standards
Number and Operations
Problem Solving

Objective

Children create flowers and assign them values, then compute and show place value with decimals as they estimate and calculate the cost of flowers and bouquets.

Teacher Preparation

Classroom Teacher: With student assistance, create simple paper \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills.

Art Teacher: Display pictures of flower arrangements that contain more than 3 flowers. Display other artifacts that illustrate radial design.

Discussion Starters

Classroom Teacher: Sometimes florists sell flowers by the stem. Typically when you send flowers to someone you send a bouquet. Is it less expensive to buy individual stems of flowers or do you think it is a better value to buy a bouquet of flowers? Where could you go to find out? Who is willing to do some research on this? Let's think about and calculate the cost of making a bouquet while you try to stay within a budget. I'll give each of you play money to spend.

Art Teacher: In class you learned about the cost of buying flowers by the stem versus buying a bouquet. Today we are going to make several single-stem flowers that demonstrate radial design. Then you will price your flower stems individually. With those flowers, you will put together beautiful bouquets—but the cost of the entire bouquet must not exceed your assigned budget! Create some unusual blossoms so you can pretend to purchase “flowers with power.”

Process

Create flower blossoms

1. Study samples of radial designs.
2. Cover art surface with newsprint or newspaper. Press a coffee filter flat on the surface. Color radial designs on one side of the filter with fabric crayons.
3. Follow the instructions and cautions on the Fabric Crayon packaging. Cover filter with clean paper on a surface suitable for ironing. Ask an adult to iron the filter with a hot iron in a well-ventilated area. Press design with slow steady pressure for 1 to 2 minutes. Unfold filter while crayon is warm.
4. To add more design interest, fold coffee filter several times. Press washable colored marker nib against the folded filter and hold in position so filter absorbs dye. Unfold filter to reveal radial designs made with markers.
5. Apply a damp paper towel to diffuse dyes for added color effects. Air-dry filter completely.
6. Decorate blossom center and edges with glitter glue.
7. Repeat to make multiple blossoms.

Create the stem and price tag

1. Gather finished blossom into a cone shape. Squeeze pointed end against the top of a colored pencil barrel.
2. Wrap about 6 to 8 inches of floral tape around the gathered filter and top of the pencil to attach blossom to pencil.
3. Cut 1 x 2-inch rectangles of oak tag to create price tags. Punch a hole in one end of tag and insert ribbon or yarn. Create a decorative border on both sides of price tag. Decide the price of flower stem and write price on tag using decimal points on one side and ¢ signs on the other. Tie price tag to flower stem. Repeat for all blossoms.
4. Calculate the cost of buying several flowers while staying within the predetermined budget (play money provided by teacher).



Artwork by students from PS 132K, Brooklyn, NY.
Teacher: Charlotte Ka



Assessment

Children summarize what they learned in each step of this process. Ask students to select from stems created by classmates to calculate how many flowers they can purchase while staying within budget. Classmates meet in small groups to verify that they created at least one bouquet that stayed within their budgets.

Background Information

Most flowers arrive at your local flower shop from great distances. Florists get their stock from wholesalers, who obtain flowers and plants from huge international auctions.

The largest flower auction in the world is in Aalsmeer, Holland. Imagine an auction building that covers 160 acres, with complex computerized moving and tracking systems for their fragile wares. About 14 million flowers are auctioned every day in Aalsmeer—that's 3 billion flowers a year! Most of these flowers are shipped to other countries, including the United States.

Your favorite, fragrant flower in a Mother's Day bouquet or wedding arrangement may have been grown in Bulgaria, auctioned in Holland, flown by jet across the ocean, and then trucked to your hometown.