

# Flowers

**Principle:** Botanical drawings

**Concept:** Still life, drawing what you see (the flower in front of you, not the flower you have always drawn)

**Objective:** Students will create two botanical drawings of flowers using different mediums and different colored backgrounds. To observe tiny details and shapes of flowers and create an image based on their observation.

<b>Supplies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ One 9"x22"-inch piece of white drawing paper per student</li><li>✓ One 9"x22"-inch piece of black construction paper per student</li><li>✓ Black uni-ball pen for each student</li><li>✓ White colored pencil for each student</li><li>✓ Colored chalk pastels in divided bins</li><li>✓ Watercolors</li><li>✓ Watercolor brushes</li><li>✓ Tubs for water</li><li>✓ Hairspray</li><li>✓ Paper towels</li><li>✓ A variety of flowers: different shape, size, and color; big tropicals work best. Look in plastic bin marked O'Keefe for plastic flowers if you cannot bring real flowers. We suggest going to Trader Joe's to get fresh tropical flowers or flowers from your garden.</li></ul>
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<b>Pre-Class Prep:</b>	If possible, bring in some large fresh tropical flowers.
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<b>Set-up:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up flowers. Place a vase of mixed flowers at each table. This will give students the opportunity to choose an angle or flower to study.</li><li>• Distribute white paper, uniball pens, and water colors.</li><li>• Have black construction paper, white pencils, and chalk pastels ready to distribute.</li></ul>
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**Prints:** 108, 109 \* See also O'Keefe notebook in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade art folder.

**Samples:**

**Lesson:**

**"Nobody sees a flower, really, it is so small. We haven't time - and to see takes time, like to have a friend takes time." ~ Georgia O'Keefe**

Show the print and talk about the artist and her work very briefly.

Georgia O’Keeffe knew from the time she was a young girl she wanted to be an artist. Her parents encouraged her interest and gave her lessons. Georgia was one of seven children in the family, and the education of their children was important to her parents. She is famous for her paintings of flowers. She made them very large so they filled the whole canvas. She painted many kinds of flowers. You may have seen her pictures of [poppies](#) and irises.

Have the students pick a flower they would like to draw. Talk about the shapes in their flowers. Does the flower have spikes at the top or little stamen or a pistil sticking out? Does the head of the flower tilt to one side or droop down? Does the flower have a thick stem or a skinny stem? Does the stem get smaller towards the top near the flower? Have them look carefully at the details of their flower. Now tell them to draw their flower BIG on their page with the black pen and when they are done drawing they will get to paint them with watercolors. When they are ready to paint, remind them to wash their brush with water and blot it on their paper towel every time they change colors so their colors don’t turn to mud! When they are finished with their watercolors hand out the black paper and white pencils and place the chalk pastels on the tables. Now have them choose another flower to draw with white pencil on the black paper. Remind them to draw BIG. Ask them: “What are the differences between the first flower they chose and the second flower and what is similar or the same about the two flowers?” When they are done with the drawing they can color their second flower with chalk pastels. Tell them that chalk pastels are messy! Tell them to clap their hands to get rid of the messy dust on their hands and not to wipe it on their clothing!!! As they are working, show the class some of the students work noting the details on the drawings: “Look at “Johnny’s” flower! Look how he drew the stamen poking out from the petals!” Have them title their art and write this on a label and stick to the back of the paper.

Spray the chalk pastel drawings with hairspray when they are done.

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### **Instructions for Instructors**

#### **Vocabulary:**

**Stem-**A slender stalk supporting or connecting another plant part, such as a leaf or flower

**Petals-**

**Stamen-**The pollen-producing reproductive organ of a flower

**Botanical Drawing-** A drawing of a plant

**Still Life-** A drawing or painting of inanimate objects (things that are not alive)

Lesson created by Michelle Smit