

Socially Distant Science

Brought to you by the Regional Science Consortium so you can enjoy science and the outdoors while remaining socially distant during the COVID19 outbreak.



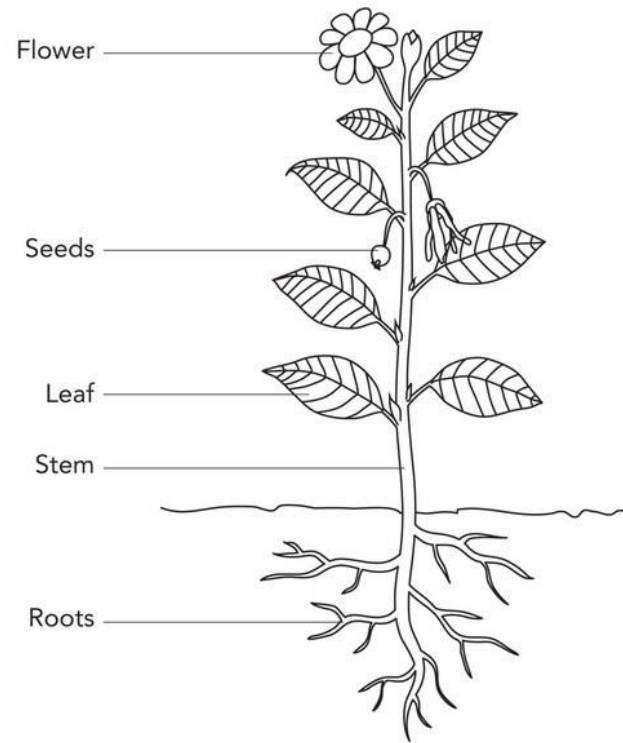
Phenology

- ◆ Phe-nol-o-gy
- ◆ The study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life
- ◆ This is a great time to go outside and look for acorns that survived the winter.
- ◆ These three acorns were already showing signs of germination with their root starting to anchor into the ground.
- ◆ Such small beginning for a mighty Oak Tree!



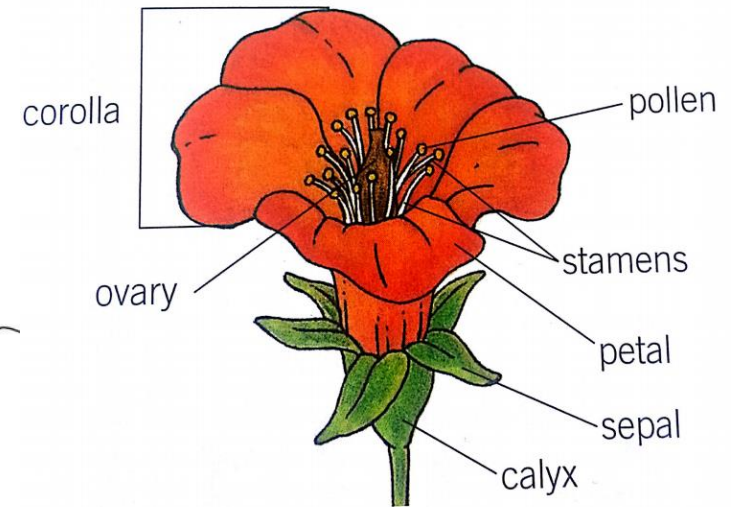
Parts of a Flower

- ◆ Work on your flower identification skills by learning the anatomy of a flower
- ◆ Try picking a flower from your yard and identifying all of its parts shown in the drawings to the right!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

The parts of a flower 11



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)



Track a Lilac

- ◇ Do you have a lilac bush in your neighborhood?
- ◇ Tracking the blooming of lilacs through the program Track a Lilac helps scientists study phenology, or the science of spring
- ◇ Join Track a Lilac here:
<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/TrackaLilac>

Daffodils

- ◆ Known for their springtime blooming, these beautiful flowers can probably be found throughout your neighborhood!
- ◆ Known as Narcissus in Latin with scientific name *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*
- ◆ Look for these bright yellow flowers on your next walk!



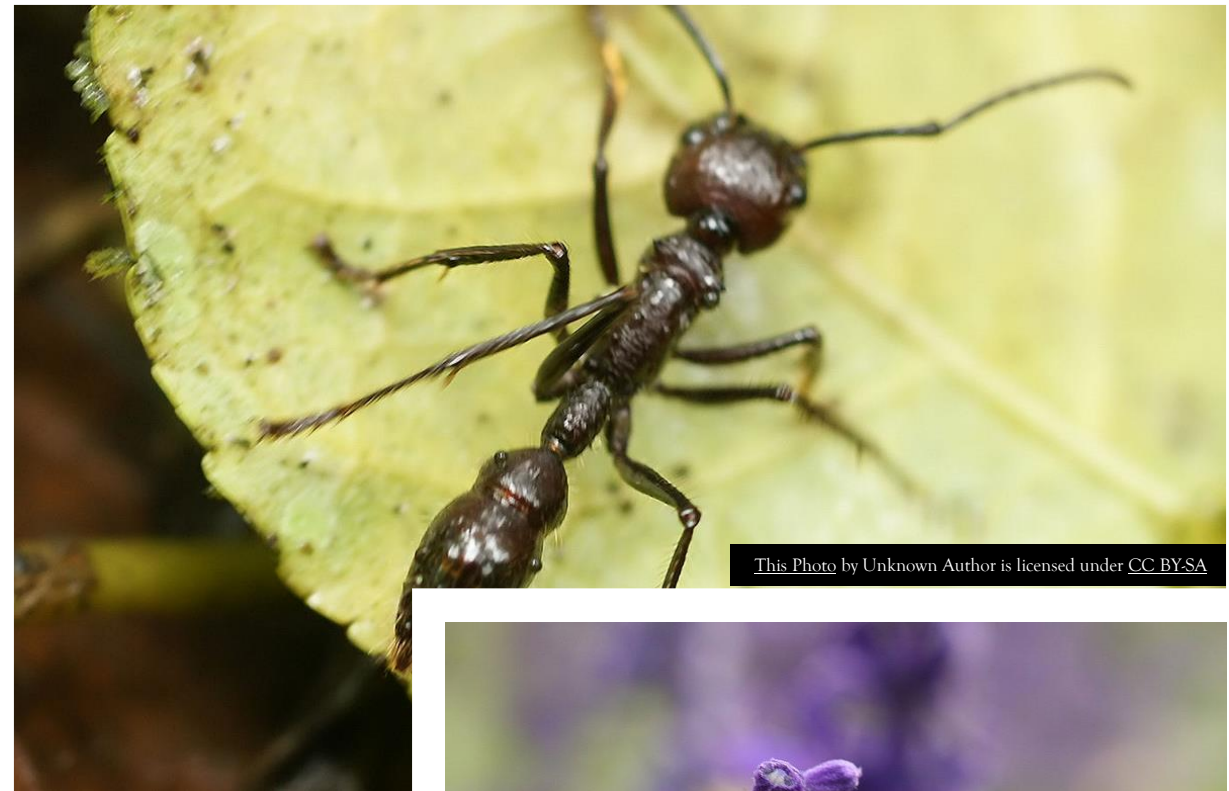
Magnolia Trees

- ◆ The flower buds of a Magnolia Tree are one of the most beautiful signs of spring!
- ◆ From the family Magnoliaceae, they are named after French Botanist Pierre Magnol.
- ◆ Take a walk through your neighborhood to see if you can spot any of these gorgeous trees!



Pollinators

- ◆ Pollinators come in many different shapes, sizes, and species!
- ◆ They may have wings that allow them to carry pollen from flower to flower
 - ◆ Bees, flies
- ◆ Some pollinate by crawling on the ground and carrying pollen with them
 - ◆ Ants, beetles
- ◆ In other parts of the world, some pollinators are even flying mammals that carry pollen from meal to meal as they eat insects
 - ◆ Bats



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Bees

- ◆ From Order *Hymenoptera*, bees provide pollination to so many species of flowers, trees, and shrubs.
- ◆ Bees are essential to food production and creating genetic diversity between plants
- ◆ Try to find some bees taking meals of nectar from flowers in your neighborhood, but don't touch them! Although not aggressive, they do have stingers.



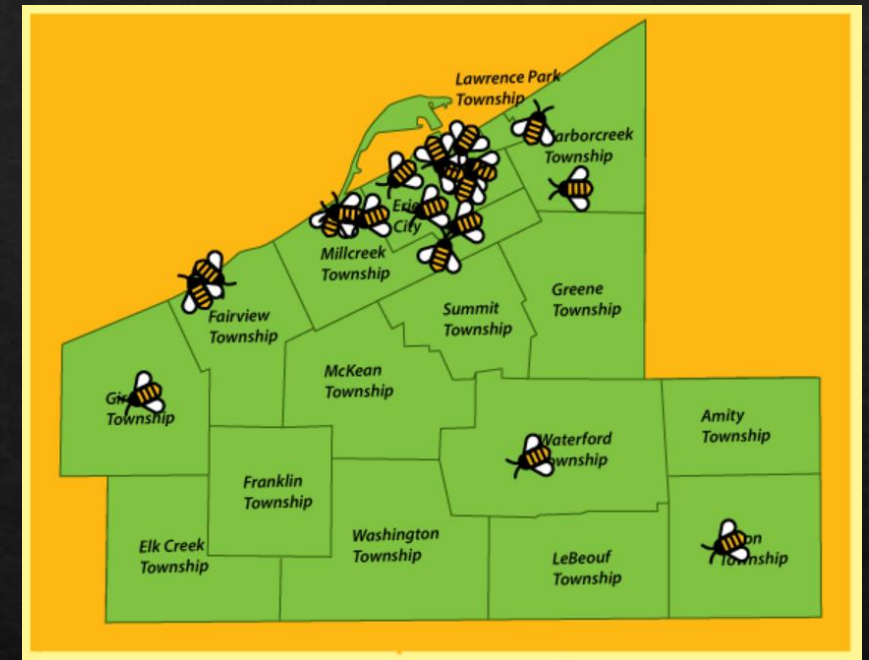
The Great Sunflower Project

- ◆ The Great Sunflower Project is a citizen science project that helps scientists determine where pollinators need a little help!
- ◆ For this project, you will:
 - ◆ Identify and count flowers
 - ◆ Count the number of pollinators
 - ◆ Record how long you observed
 - ◆ Report data to national database
- ◆ This is an excellent pollinator project you can do by taking a walk around your neighborhood and maintaining social distance!
- ◆ Find the project here: <https://www.greatsunflower.org/>



Pollinator Pathway

- ◆ Feel like getting in some yardwork? Make it pollinator friendly and add it to the Go Native Erie Pollinator Pathway map!
- ◆ Pollinator decline is linked to habitat loss and fragmentation.
- ◆ The purpose of the pollinator pathway is to provide a network of pollinator-friendly forage and habitat sites in our region.
- ◆ Individuals, organizations and municipalities can participate in this citizen-science program by offering chemical-free nesting sites and food sources for pollinators; including bees, butterflies and moths, beetles and other pollinating insects and mammals.
- ◆ Go to <http://www.regsciconsort.com/pollinator-pathway/> to add your pollinator garden!



Go Native Erie, 2020

eBird

- ◆ Spring is an excellent time to start looking for new birds and nests.
- ◆ Help scientists around the world track birds right from your own backyard!
- ◆ Go to <https://ebird.org/home> to create an account and start birding!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

Bird Cams

- ◆ Don't feel like walking around today? Try Bird Cams by The Cornell Lab
- ◆ Bird Cams give you a window into dozens of bird species primary habitat where you can watch them fly, feed, nest and more!
- ◆ Go to <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/> to enter a whole new world of birds today!



Spring Peepers

- ◇ Spring Peepers are one of the first frogs to begin calling in the spring, which is where they get their name.
- ◇ They are found in wooded areas and grassy lowlands near ponds and swamps.
- ◇ If you live near a pond, you most likely will hear them calling at dusk.
- ◇ Go outside tonight and listen while maintaining social distance!
- ◇ For a great example of their calls, go to <https://youtu.be/lXfmubmx-qw>

Pennsylvania Amphibian & Reptile Survey (PARS)

- ◆ Let's get slimy! If you have trees downed or wood piles in your yard or neighborhood, you can carefully search them for amphibians and reptiles!
- ◆ Upload photos of the critters you find to the PARS website and scientists will help to identify it!
- ◆ The PARS database helps scientists throughout the state keep track of common, rare, and even endangered amphibians and reptiles, and all you need is a photo!
- ◆ Go to <https://paherpsurvey.org/> to upload your first photo today!



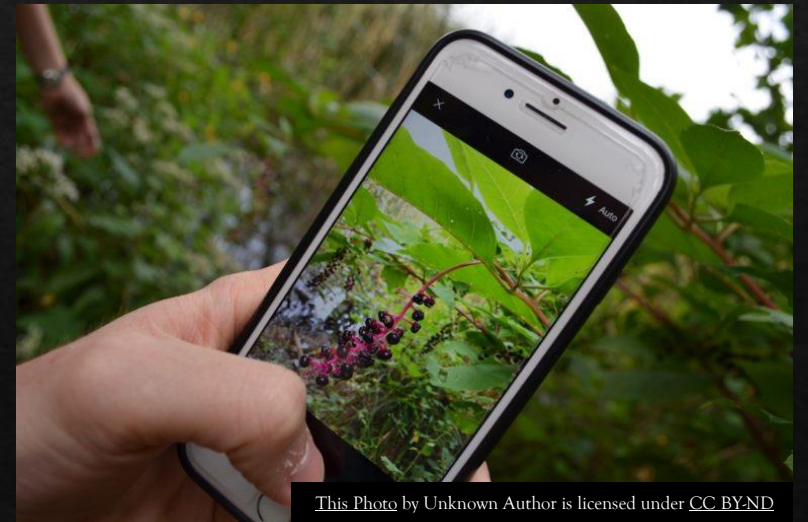
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

iNaturalist

- ◆ A very popular citizen scientist network, use iNaturalist to photograph, identify, and discuss plants, animals, and insects in your own yard or by walking through your neighborhood!
- ◆ This mobile app will make science seem like a breeze during these trying times.
- ◆ Download the app or go to their website at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- ◆ Start your socially distant science today!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)



Happy Social Distancing!

A scientist is never bored! We hope you can take advantage of these online and outdoor activities to make your stay at home a little brighter, educational, and more interesting.



Share your photos with us on Facebook and Instagram, and use #SociallyDistantScience to join the world in bringing science to your own backyard.

From all your friends at the RSC, stay safe, stay home, and we hope to see you very soon! We are in this together!