



Flowers: Nature's gladtrags



Pop out into your garden if you have one or maybe take a short walk with an adult.
Can you find any of these flowers?



Foxgloves have large, flat leaves that form the base of the plant, and tall, upright flower spikes. Its distinctive, tube-shaped, magenta flowers are arranged around the stem and open in sequence from the bottom up.



Common Dandelion. Look for the familiar yellow flower heads displaying closely packed florets (tiny flowers). The leaves of the Common Dandelion are spoon-shaped, and the stem has a milky white sap if it is broken. Its seeds appear as a packed seed head with downy, white parachutes which blow in the wind.



Daisy. The name "daisy" is considered a corruption of "day's eye" because the whole head closes at night and opens in the morning. The English Daisy is also considered to be a flower of children and innocence and children link daisies into a 'daisy chain'.



Lesser Celandine (Pinewort) is a low-growing plant with glossy green, heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow, star-like flowers that are about 3cm across. The flowers typically open in the sunlight.



Buttercup has five yellow, shiny, petals. Some animals get sick when they eat it, but they do not do that a lot because buttercups taste bad. Young children have long placed a buttercup flower under another's chin and if the yellow was reflected back to the underside of the chin, then that person was deemed to like butter.



Ground-elder has leaves with three lobes, like a pointed clover-leaf, at the base of its stems. It displays rounded, umbrella-like clusters of small, white flowers.



Cuckooflower has a rosette of leaves at its base and an upright stem that bears the delicate, small, pale pink or mauve flowers. Each flower has four petals, although double-flowered varieties do appear.



Groundsel has long, lobed and ragged leaves that are stalked low down the stem, but unstaked further up the stem. Its clusters of yellow flowers can be seen most of the year, and turn to white, fluffy seed heads. These led to its Latin name, Senecio, derived from the word for 'old man' - pull the white, fluffy seeds from the flower head and they leave behind a bare, dotted 'scalp'.

There are loads more different flowers. Did you find any other types? Can you find out more about them?

Can you correctly number the labels the picture below with the correct parts of a wild flower listed?

1. **Root:** Anchors the plant, absorbs water and minerals and stores extra food
2. **Stem:** Supports the leaves and flowers, carries water and minerals up from the roots to the leaves, and then takes food back down so that it can be shared with other parts of the plant
3. **Leaf:** Turns energy, from the sun, into food for the plant as well as breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen
4. **Bud:** May develop into a flower, leaf, or shoot
5. **Flower:** Blossoms to produce the seed, or fruit, of the plant

PARTS OF A *Wildflower*

