

SCIENCEOXFORD



# Science Oxford Challenge

Make your own BLOSSOMING PAPER FLOWERS

[scienceoxford.com](http://scienceoxford.com)

# Blossoming Paper Flowers

## instructions

Make your own folded paper flower and watch what happens when you float it on water. Can you find out more about something that might affect how quickly this happens? You could explore what the flower is made from, flower petal size or shape, or even something to do with the water.

Age group: 4 - adult

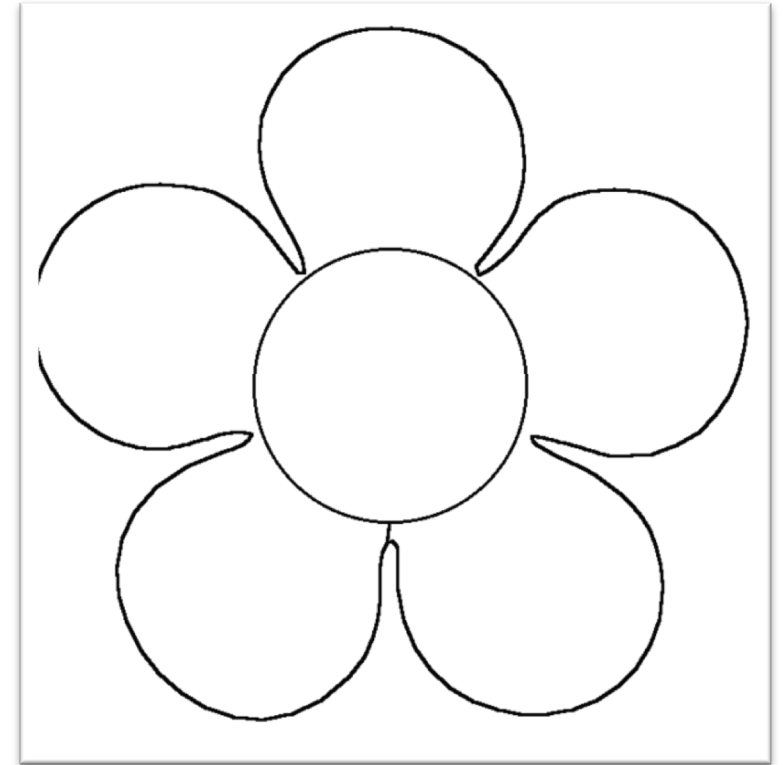
What you will need: paper (you may want different types), scissors, pen/pencil, a watertight tray or bowl, water, timer.

Skills: Close observation, prediction, pattern seeking, fair testing, gross and fine motor skills, verbal and social skills



# How to make and test your flower

1. First, draw a simple flower shape with several petals on a piece of paper. You might want to use our template.
2. Cut out your flower.
3. Fold the petals of your flower one by one into the centre.
4. Add some water to your tray or bowl – you only need a shallow depth to cover the base.
5. Carefully place the flower, with its petals uppermost, onto the surface of the water.
6. Watch what happens – it may take a couple of minutes!



# What could you investigate about your flower??

The challenge is to find out more about something that might affect how quickly your flower opens.

What could you change about your flower or the liquid it is floating on?

You can create your own investigation by changing one thing, making a prediction about what will happen based on the knowledge you already have, and then observing the difference it makes when you try it out.



## For an extra challenge:

- How could you use what you have found out to make a paper flower which opens as quickly as possible or one which opens as slowly as possible?
- If you carry out lots of different experiments what patterns do you notice? Does this help you to work out why folded paper flowers open up when you float them on water?





# What is a 'fair test'?

One important type of science investigation is known as a 'fair test'. When we do a 'fair test' in science, we change just one thing (for example the size of the flower) and measure the impact on one other thing (how quickly the flower opens) and keep everything else about the experiment exactly the same.

This means that if our experiment has a different result, then we know why it is different. The 'things' we can change are known as variables.

- What will you change?
- What will you keep the same?
- What will you measure?



We hope you enjoyed our Science Oxford Challenge.

When you've experimented with your flowers, email us a video or photo to [competition@scienceoxford.com](mailto:competition@scienceoxford.com) or post it on Twitter or Facebook and tag @scienceoxford #scienceoxfordchallenge.

There's a prize of a family ticket for our Science Oxford Centre for the best entry - good luck!



# Share your challenge with us...

Show us what you came up with on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and tag:

@scienceoxford #scienceoxfordchallenge #scienceathome

or email [competition@scienceoxford.com](mailto:competition@scienceoxford.com)

For more ideas visit [www.scienceoxford.com/resources](http://www.scienceoxford.com/resources)

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