



# Topical Tidbits

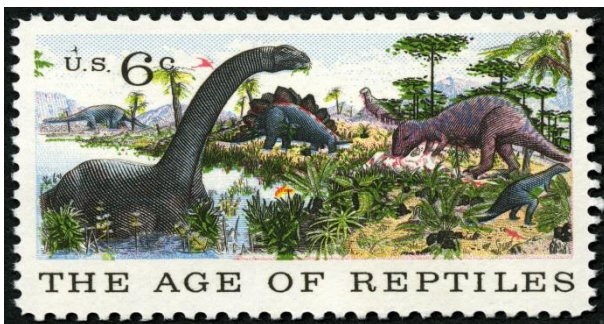
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# Flowers

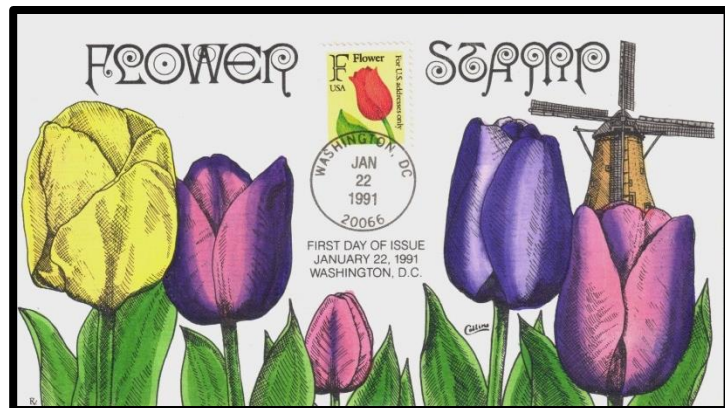
*Welcome to the wonderful world of flowers!*



Before flowers existed, ferns and cone-bearing trees dominated the earth. Flowers first appeared 140 million years ago.



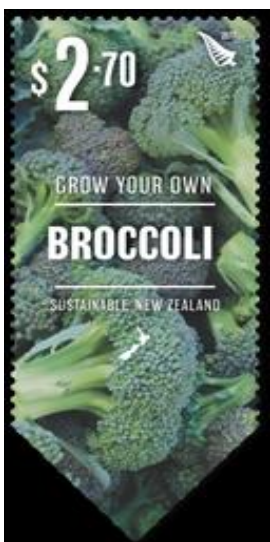
The corpse flower, which smells like a rotting dead body, is the largest and smelliest flower in the world. Measuring over 8 foot tall and 12 feet around, people have been known to pass out from the horrible smell!



During “tulip mania” in the 1630s in Holland, tulips were more valuable than gold.



Hundreds of years ago when Vikings invaded Scotland, they were slowed by patches of wild thistle. This gave the Scots time to escape. Because of this, the wild thistle is now Scotland’s national flower.



Broccoli is actually a flower.



The very expensive spice, saffron, comes from a type of crocus flower. It takes about 80,000 flowers to make one pound of saffron spice, which can cost upwards of \$5000/lb.



# A Philatelic Flower Garden



S O M S O C O S P M T  
 Z X E P R A M R P O S  
 I M U N I L S T R P I  
 N Z L K S E K Z I T L  
 N I C S I N T Z M O A  
 I M N R E D R I O X T  
 A L Y S S U M N S M I  
 S A T K O L U P E S G  
 P T J N R A S T E R I  
 R S Z I P H L O X I D  
 I H S P L E R M O L H

In 2013, the USPS issued these *Vintage Seed Packets Commemorative Forever stamps*. They are based on photographs of seed packets from a century ago. Can you find all 10 flowers in the word search?

# The Language of Flowers

During Victorian times (1837-1901), flowers were the language of love. Each flower had a particular meaning. Sending and receiving flowers was a way to show someone you really liked them or disliked them. Most Victorian homes would have had a book explaining the “language” of flowers. Write the letter under each stamp next to the flower’s meaning on the cards below. Answers at bottom.



A. Red Rose



B. Peony



C. Lily of the Valley



D. Yellow Carnation



E. Blue Hyacinth



F. Bluebells



G. Pink Camellia



H. Begonia



I. Azalea



J. Daffodil

1. Love

4. Take care of yourself for me.

8. Constancy

2. Beware

5. Bashfulness

9. Longing for you.

3. Kindness

6. Purity

10. You're the only one.

7. Disdain



# Birth Month Flowers

It is believed that it was the Romans who started celebrating birth and birthdays using flowers. Each month has a flower that is sometimes referred to as a *birth month flower*. You can use the chart below to keep up with the birthdays of your friends and family. Just write their name on the line under the correct month. For example, if Susan's birthday is June 16<sup>th</sup>, you could write 16: Susan. Keep the chart handy to help you remember those special days.

## January:

Carnation

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## February:

Violet

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## March:

Daffodil

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## April:

Daisy

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## May:

Lily of the Valley

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## June:

Rose

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## July:

Larkspur

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## August:

Gladiolus

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## September:

Aster

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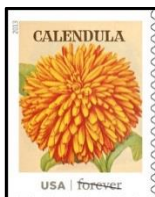
## October:

Calendula

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## November:

Chrysanthemum

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## December:

Narcissus

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# Flower Fun

I hope **thistle** show you  
how much I love you!

Not a **daisy** goes by where  
I don't think about you.

Our **tulips** should kiss.

I really **lilac** you.

I love you **mum-**  
you're the best!



## Flower Puns



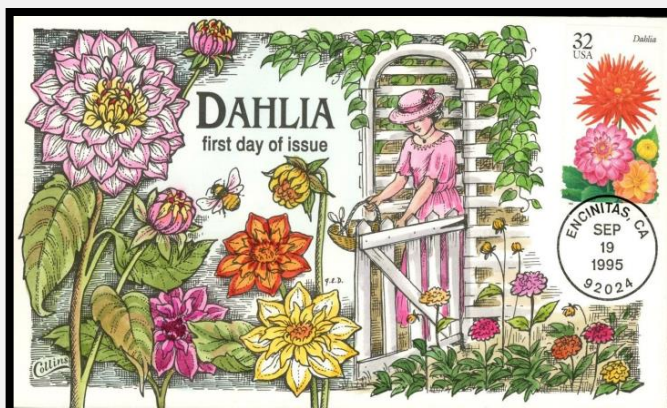
## Flowers in Stories

Flowers sometimes play an important part in a story. For example, in *Beauty and the Beast*, Belle doesn't realize just how much her life will change when she asks her father to bring her a rose back from his trip. In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy and her friends must make it through a field of magical poppies without falling asleep if they want to get to the Emerald City. Can you think of other stories where flowers play an important role?



## Flower ABCs

Oh, no! Lydia was just about to go out to her garden to plant when she dropped all her seed packets. Can you help her put them back in alphabetical order? The seed packets are on the next four pages. You might like to print these on card stock before cutting them out. Thanks for helping and good luck!



# Poppy



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Pansy



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Daisy



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Larkspur



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**



# Sunflower



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Marigold



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Morning Glory



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Sweet Pea



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Begonia



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Cornflower



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Forget-Me-Not



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Dianthus



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**



# Geranium



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Lobelia



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Rudbeckia



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Zinnia



**QUALITY SEEDS**  
American Topical Association

**10¢**

# Flowers

