



This book is for:

Name: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

 nr: _____

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Introduction

This is your own booklet and it will help you learn all about flower bulbs. It contains stories about what happens to a flower bulb in the different seasons, and also talks a bit about the history of flower bulbs. This booklet also contains many craft and photography that you can work on together with your classmates during the schoolday. The figures on this page show what kind of project it is.

Have fun!



Did you know that...



Photography assignment



Drawing/writing assignment



Group assignment



Hello!

My name is

Think of a fun name for me and write it on the dotted line.

I would like to tell you some fun things about flower bulbs, what they look like, what you can do with them, and especially what beautiful flowers they turn into!



History of flower bulbs

The most famous flower bulb is the tulip. "Tulip" comes from the word Tulipa, which is Latin for: the flower that looks like a turban (tulipan). Tulips were already grown and traded in Turkey in the Middle Ages. In those days, the men there wore turbans, which is where the name came from! So tulips are descended from those tulips in Turkey, which were brought to the Netherlands.



Around 1550, Turkey was a powerful country. There was a rich sultan there called Sultan Suleiman. His palace gardens were full of the most beautiful tulips. Sometimes he gave a few flower bulbs to a famous guest as a gift. One of these famous guests was a Mr. Busbeq, a nobleman from Flanders (The Netherlands). He gave the tulip bulbs to a friend of his, called Carol Clusius.

This Mr. Clusius was in charge of the Emperor of Austria's herb garden. Clusius later left and came to the Netherlands. He became a professor at Leiden University (The Netherlands) and he also became the boss of the University's herb garden. He did all kinds of experiments with the tulips he'd brought with him. He didn't sell them.

Then one night, it happened. Some of his most beautiful tulip bulbs were stolen from the garden. Those stolen bulbs from Turkey were the beginning of the flower bulb trade in the Netherlands!



It's
Fall!





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Fall explained

The leaves on the trees turn brown and red and fall from the trees, it's fall again! September 21 is the official start of fall.

In the fall it gets colder and colder and it gets dark earlier and earlier. You can't play outside everyday anymore in the fall.

The fall is when flower bulbs need to be planted so that they can bloom in the spring.





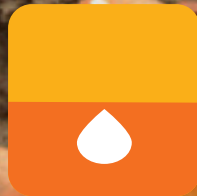
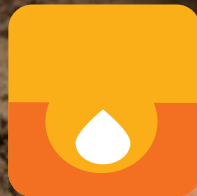
Search for
beautiful leaves and
add them here.



Search for
beautiful leaves and
add them here.

Planting flower bulbs

You can plant flower bulbs in the garden and in flower boxes in the fall months. First you need to loosen the soil, and then you dig a hole to place the bulb in. Make sure the hole is twice as deep as the height of the bulb. After planting the bulbs in the holes, you cover the bulbs with the soil you dug out. To help you remember which flower bulbs you've planted, you can write the name of the bulbs on a name card (idea: fun crafts project) and put it in the ground next to the bulbs. This way you'll be able to see which bulbs you planted next year. If you plant bulbs in flower boxes and a long, hard frost is expected, you should cover the flower bulbs and put them closer to the wall.



Did you know that you can also grow flower bulbs in a glass?

Hyacinths and crocuses can be grown in glasses. You can buy special jars or glasses in shops, but you can also use a jam jar. Fill the glass with water and place the bulb on top of it.

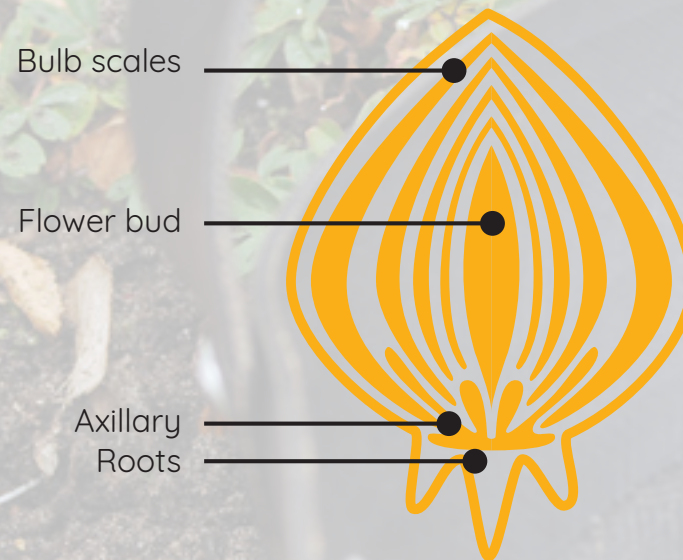
Make sure the water doesn't quite touch the bulb. After a few days, you'll see the roots start to appear. Make sure there is enough water in the glass. Find a cool place in the basement or garage. After three months, you can put the bulb in the room.

What does the inside of a flower bulb look like?

At the bottom of the bulb is a disc, which the roots grow from. This disc is called a basal plate. The rest of the bulb is made of thick scales. These are called “bulb scales”. Just like an onion, there are dry skins on the outside.

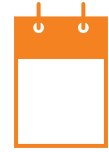
When you tear these skins off, each of the scales underneath is fatter and whiter. The scales contain the food, which the new plant feeds on in the spring. The outer, brown, hard skins are the empty scales, from which the plant fed last year. The outer skins protect the bulb from drying out or rotting.

Right in the middle of the bulb is a flower bud. This is the bud from which the new flower will grow. In between the bulb scales, there are also axillary buds, from which new bulbs develop.





You can now start planting flower bulbs with your class. Your teacher is sure to enjoy helping you with this project! Don't forget to take a picture of it. Then you can glue the picture on the opposite page.



Add your picture here.



Quality
Time!



Don't forget to make a nice label for your flower bulb. Find a pointed piece of wood and make a nice drawing on it. You could also write the name of the flower bulb on it.

Put this name card next to your planted bulb and you'll never forget the spot where you planted your bulbs and which variety it is.

Take a picture, too.



Add your
picture here.



Naming flower bulbs

Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths are the most famous types of flower bulbs, but there are also other kinds known as “special flower bulbs”. These include the crocus, the snowdrop and the grape hyacinth. Of course, you know that tulips, daffodils and hyacinths are not all alike. They vary in shape, color and size, and new varieties are developed all the time.

?

Did you know that there are 3000 different kinds of tulips?

And that there is also a “black” tulip?

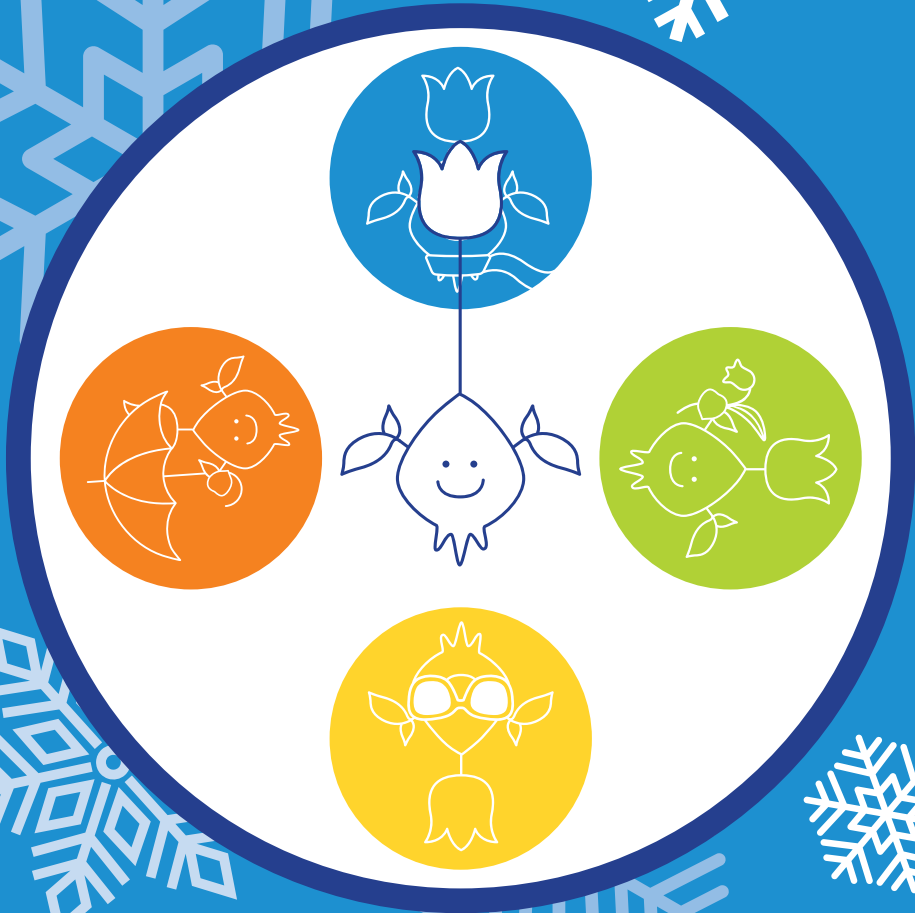


Nurserymen try to develop prettier, better and stronger varieties by crossing different ones. New tulips are frequently named after famous people, princes, princesses, singers, film actors, etc.

You now know that tulips are often named after famous people. Try to find your own famous tulip names on the internet. Perhaps bulb catalogues can help you a little bit.



Write down the names you have found:



It's
winter!

Winter explained

The time for cold, snow, ice-skating and skiing is here. It's winter! December 21 is the official start of winter.

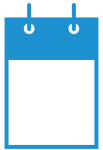


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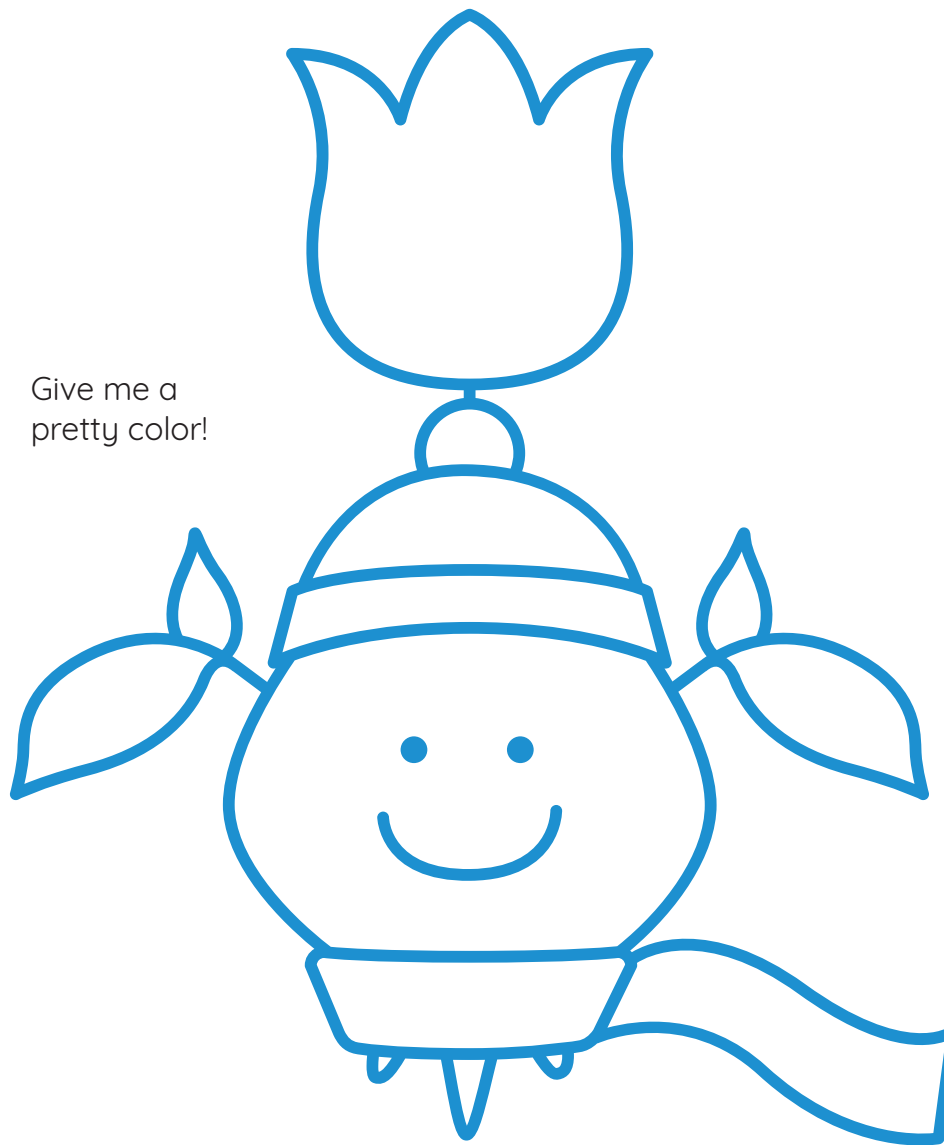
In the winter, it can be very cold and people immediately think of snow: the cold white stuff that's so much fun to play with and which you can use to make snowballs and snowmen.

In the winter, the bulbs go into a kind of "hibernation" and wait patiently for the ground to warm up.






Draw as many different kinds of snowflakes as you can here.



Give me a pretty color!



What happens to the flower bulbs now?

Many flower bulbs originally come from countries with warm summers and cold winters. Flower bulbs need the cold during the winter to bloom nicely.

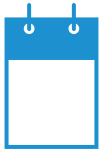
?

Did you know that there is a special museum in the Netherlands about flower bulbs?

www.amsterdamtulipmuseum.com

As soon as the flower bulbs are put in the ground, the roots begin to grow and the flower bulbs gradually develop.

Then winter arrives and the bulb stops growing until it gets warmer and then, one day, the first green tips poke through the soil.



Take a photo of the first green tips of the bulb you planted, and add it here.



Measure the tips and write down the length here.





Did you know that you can plant flower bulbs in layers, so that you are continuously surprised by new flowers?

Did you know that most daffodils smell really nice?



It's
spring!



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Spring explained

March 20 is the official start of spring. In the spring, nature wakes up from its long winter nap and it gets warmer and warmer as the days grow longer.

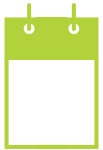
You can play outside again, sometimes without wearing a coat. In the spring, the flower bulbs grow and bloom.

?

Did you know that you can walk the bollebozen (clever wooden shoes) route at the Keukenhof (in the Netherlands)?

www.keukenhof.nl





Come up with a fun “bulb poem”.



What happens to the flower bulbs now?

In the spring, the flower bulb grows quickly and you will see beautiful flowers bloom in the places where you planted your flower bulbs. Now you can be really be proud of yourself, because you have made your garden, patio or balcony look so pretty.



When the flower bulbs have finished flowering, you need to let them die back so that they will come back the next year if you've planted them in a sunny spot.



Take a photo of your flower and add it on.





Make a nice drawing of your flower.





It's
SUMMER!

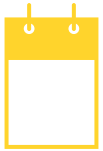


21

Summer explained

It's the season of holidays, swimming, lying in the sun and eating ice cream. The official start of summer is June 21.


In the summer, it is often nice and warm and you can play outside a lot.



Add a nice holiday
photo on here

Add a nice holiday
photo on here



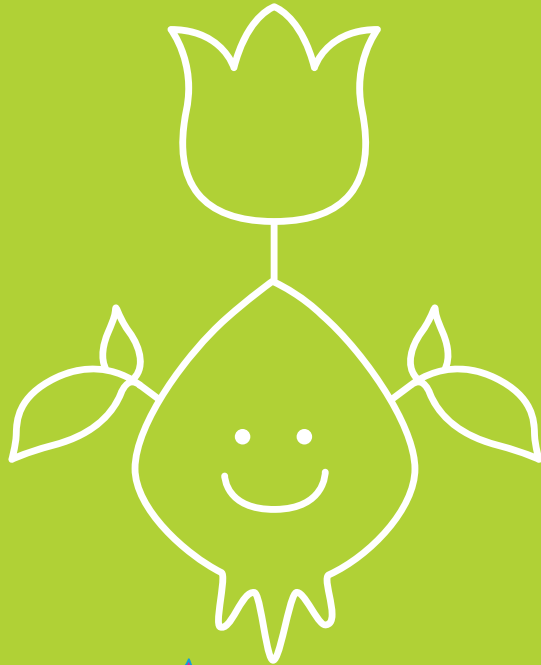
A young girl with long blonde hair and a young boy with short blonde hair are smiling in a field of pink tulips. The girl is wearing a camouflage jacket, and the boy is wearing a blue denim jacket. The background is filled with rows of tulips in various colors, including yellow and white.

Tips for teachers

Dear teacher: If your class has become really interested in flower bulbs and you, too, would like to learn more about them, you could visit www.bulbs4kids.com. This website provides a lot of information about flower bulbs as well as interesting links.

Nearby garden centers are good sources for purchasing various kinds of bulbs. If your school has no garden, flower bulbs can also be planted with perfect results in pretty pots and planters. This means that everyone can enjoy these spring-flowering bulbs in the spring.





www.bulbs4kids.com