

Make a May bouquet of flowers for someone special!

Gather your supplies (We've included alternative options, too!):

- New/clean coffee filters (tissue paper/tissues)
- paper or plastic straws (sticks/twigs, a tightly rolled up sheet of paper)
- a selection of food colourings or washable dyes (any paint, crayon, marker will also work)
- tape (we suggest masking tape, but any tape will do)
- a plate to mix colours
- a small paintbrush (Q-tips)
- Q-tips
- a cup for clean water to wash your brushes (recyclable glass jar/plastic container)
- paper towels or newspapers to catch any drips and to keep everything tidy!

Optional supplies:

An iron (with help from an adult), construction paper, and scissors.

Note:

If you are missing some of the supplies, don't worry. That is just an opportunity for you to get creative! Find something else that works, and use it instead.

Instructions:

1) Start by spreading out newspaper or paper towel on the table where you are working.

This will absorb any stray drops of food colouring and make your clean up much easier!

2) Grab the rest of your supplies and lay them out in front of you. Make sure to fill your container with clean water to wash your brushes.

3) Take out one of the coffee filters to start and smooth it out until it is flat.



4) Put a few drops of food colouring on the plate. This will be your pallet.

5) With a paintbrush or a Q-tip, begin painting the colours onto the filter.

You can make swirls, polka dots, shapes or lines.

Tips:

-Try mixing colours together on the pallet to make new ones!
For example: Mix red and yellow to make orange.

-You can also dampen the filter first with water and then add your colour to make an explosion effect.

Note:

Remember to clean your brush whenever you change colours, so they don't accidentally mix!

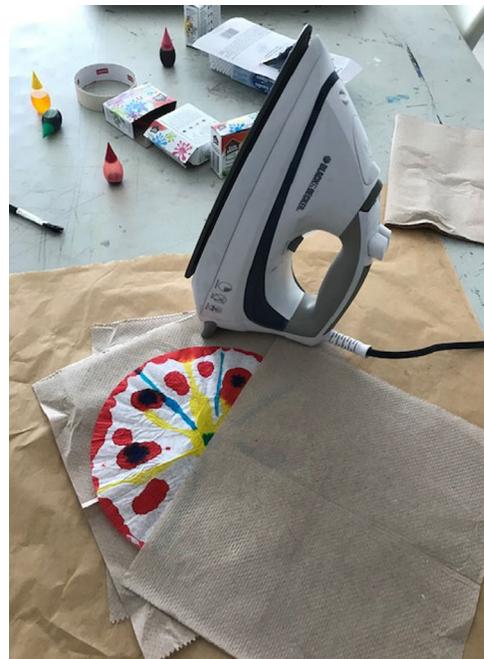


6) When you have finished painting your filters, set them aside to dry.

These painted coffee filters are the "petals" of your flower.

Tips:

If you have a helping adult, you can press the filter between two pieces of paper towel with a warm iron to help dry and flatten them.



7) Once your coffee filter petals are dry, take your filter and poke a small hole in the centre.

Note:

Make sure that the hole is just big enough for a straw to fit!

The straw will be the stem for your flower

8) Then, slide the filter down the straw a few centimetres and pinch the straw and filter together with your fingers.

Make sure you give it a good squeeze, so it is tight, almost like a bud.



9) Use masking tape to secure the filter to the straw by wrapping it around the place where the filter and the straw meet.

Make sure that the filter is secured tightly, but not too tight, as you don't want the coffee filter to rip.



10) To make a “pistil” (that’s the middle of the flower where you’ll find the pollen), cut a Q-tip in half and dip the end with the cotton into the yellow food dye. Let it dry.

11) Once your Q-tip has dried, insert it into the top opening of the straw, making sure the yellow cotton end is showing.



12) Now you can fluff out the petals and see your flower bloom!

Tips:

If you have some green tape or ribbon, wrap it around the stem to make it look even more like a real flower.



Bonus Tips:

After making a flower with one filter you may want to try stacking THREE filters together on one stem to make a bigger flower with more petals.

You can also try using small scissors to cut around the edge of the filter to make your petals fluffier or more intricate.



You can even make several flowers and put them together for a beautiful bouquet!

You may also want to draw, colour and cut out leaf shapes and tape them onto the stem.

Note:

We've included a couple templates on the next page that you can print off or trace.



