

PLANT HUNTERS

The Stories of Two Woman Botanists



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

by Amy Drorbaugh

Anna Atkins

A Scientist is Born

On a misty spring day in the southeast of England, in the county of Kent, a beautiful baby girl was born. Her adoring parents didn't know it, but she would grow up to become an accomplished scientist. She would even change history. But on this day in 1799, in the town of Tunbridge, she was just a precious infant snuggled in the loving arms of her mother. Her parents named her Anna.



Anna began gathering all types of plants, but she was especially interested in algae. She wanted to document all the different specimens of algae in the British Isles. She began gathering as much seaweed as she could find. Her collection grew to more than fifteen hundred samples!



DID YOU KNOW?

Algae produces more than seventy percent of the earth's oxygen. Without algae, life could not flourish on Earth.

Thousands of different kinds of algae grow in various colors and forms and can be found everywhere on the planet—even on snow and ice.

Fossilized algae are used to make dynamite.

In some areas of the Indian Ocean, the sea surface lights up so brightly at night that one can read a newspaper. This light is caused by tiny sea algae, the Dinoflagellata.

Ynes Mexia

An Independent Explorer



Ynes Mexia walked onto the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. She took a deep breath, thrilled to be at the school for her very first day of classes. She ignored the strange looks she received from other students walking by and, clutching her books close to her chest, set out to find her first class: Natural History.

It was 1921, and Ynes was different from all the other students. Her short white hair and pattern of fine wrinkles made her stand out among the other fresh-faced college students. You see, Ynes was fifty-one years old—three decades older than most of the other students! She didn't mind, though, because she had finally discovered her passion in life and was eager to learn.





Shortly after starting college, Ynes was invited on a botanical collecting trip to Mexico. Her Mexican heritage was an asset while traveling because she could speak the language and felt comfortable with the native people she encountered. Shortly after she arrived in Mexico, she decided to leave the organized group; years of being alone made her feel comfortable striking out on her own.

It was virtually unheard of for a woman to travel alone in the 1920s. Ynes later wrote about this time, saying, “A well-known collector and explorer stated very positively that ‘it was impossible for a woman to travel alone in Latin America.’ I decided that if I wanted to become better acquainted with the South American continent, the best way would be to make my way right across it.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Botanical collecting is a slow and labor-intensive process.

To locate new plants never collected before, a botanist often travels deep into the unknown wilderness.

If the plant is small, the botanist must carefully unearth the entire plant, being sure not to damage the specimen or its roots.

If it is a large or heavy plant, such as a tree, a sample must be carefully pruned off in a way that will not damage the plant.

Often a plant must be dissected to properly identify it before pressing.

Once collected, the plants must be pressed, allowed to dry completely, and stored for shipment.

Eventually, the plants are labeled and sold to museums and herbariums.



PLANT HUNTERS

The Stories of Two Woman Botanists

Step outside into nature and look around. Do you see the trees, notice the grass, and smell the scent of the woods? Anna Atkins discovered her love for plants when she was just a little girl. Following her father, she discovered beauty in the world around her. Ynes Mexia struggled through grief and loneliness for much of her life.

When she was in her fifties, she, too, discovered a passion for plants. As you read about these amazing botanists and their adventures, remember that whether you discover your life passion at the age of five or fifty-five, it is never too late, nor too early, to follow your dreams.



by
Molly Taylor Sanchez

CARL IN THE *Garden*



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

In a small village in Sweden lived a small boy named Carl Linnaeus. Despite the poverty of his family in the early 1700s, his minister father had a very rich garden, bursting with fruits and vegetables to feed the family, and flowers and leafy wonders to feed their souls—for so it was with little Carl. Even before he could walk, his parents would console his cries with a flower, which he admired both with his eyes and his chubby baby hands. His toys were flowers.





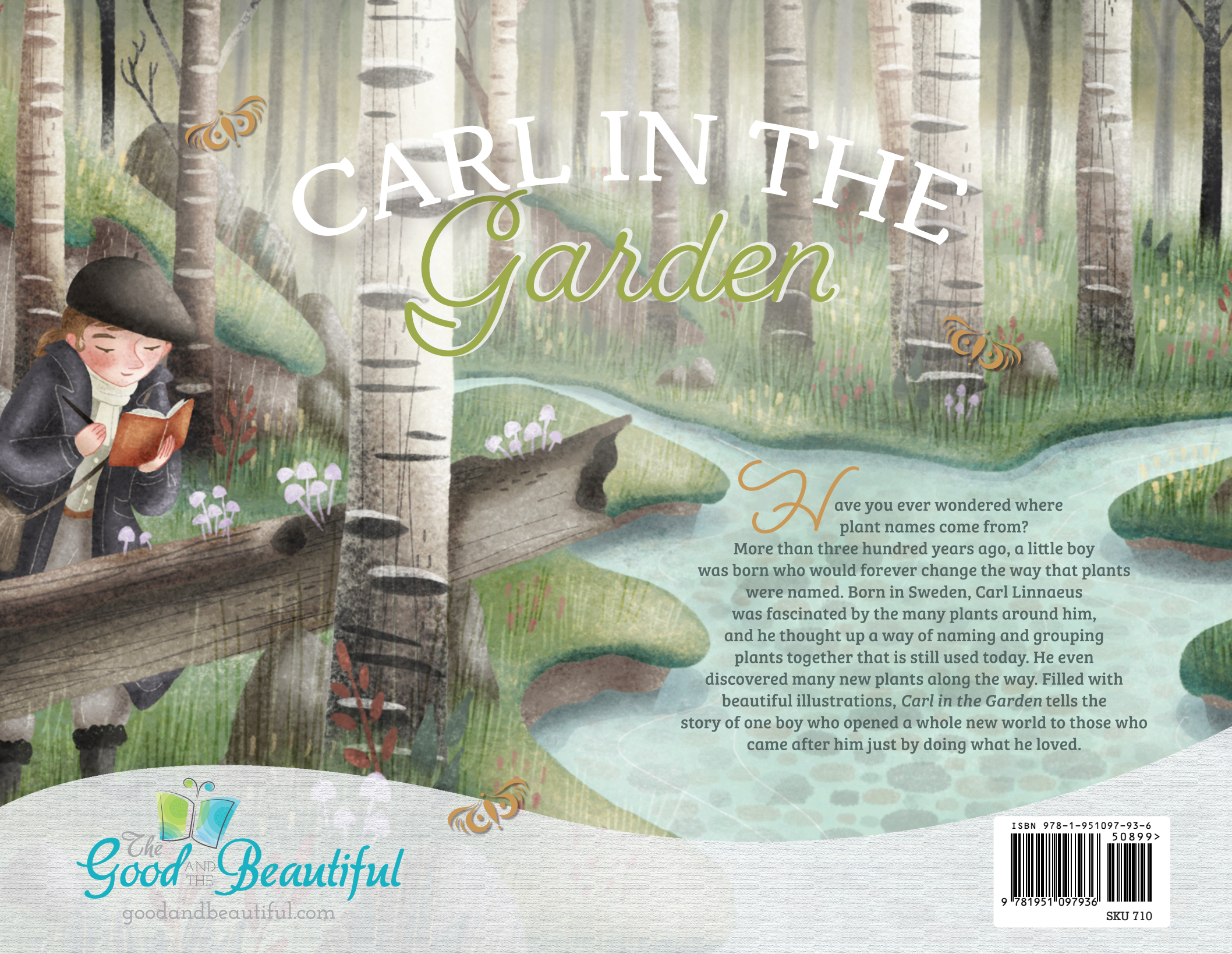
As soon as he could walk, Carl would toddle after his father, Nils, all through the garden. “Step carefully, Carl,” said his father. “We don’t want to damage a single delicate plant.” And so little Carl would lift his short legs up and over each plant, careful not to hurt them. His little fingers gently caressed the plentiful blossoms of various shapes, sizes, and colors.

Carl's father was a very talented gardener. When Carl was four years old, a pastor at church put several plants on display and explained their qualities and parts to the congregation. Carl paid close attention. From that day on, Carl asked his father to tell him the names and qualities of every plant in the garden. It was not long before Carl had memorized everything his father could teach him about each living treasure—more than four hundred plants!





Nils taught Carl other subjects as well—Latin, religion, and geography. “You must be well rounded in your learning,” Nils said, “so that you will be ready to someday take my place as minister of this parish.” For that was the desire of Carl’s loving parents.

A whimsical illustration of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a dark blue coat, a white scarf, and a black beret. He is standing in a forest, holding a small brown book and a quill pen, appearing to be writing or reading. The forest is filled with tall, slender trees, green grass, and small purple mushrooms. A small stream flows through the scene. The title 'CARL IN THE Garden' is written in a large, elegant font, with 'CARL IN THE' in white and 'Garden' in a green script. The background is a soft, painterly depiction of a forest scene.

CARL IN THE *Garden*

Have you ever wondered where
plant names come from?

More than three hundred years ago, a little boy
was born who would forever change the way that plants
were named. Born in Sweden, Carl Linnaeus
was fascinated by the many plants around him,
and he thought up a way of naming and grouping
plants together that is still used today. He even
discovered many new plants along the way. Filled with
beautiful illustrations, *Carl in the Garden* tells the
story of one boy who opened a whole new world to those who
came after him just by doing what he loved.



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

FLOWER

Study

Written by
Maggie Taylor Enger
& Molly Taylor Sanchez



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever walked past a lovely flower and wished you knew its name? Does your child “stop and smell the roses” and truly marvel at the wonder of flowers—or just pass them by? Whether you and your child are plant experts or just beginning your journey into the splendor of flowers, this book is for you! Not only does *The Good and the Beautiful Flower Study* teach you and your child the names and features of 40 flowers, it also **encourages you to look closely** at the magnificent design of each bloom, **engages your minds, captures your imaginations**, and **creates a sense of wonder** for God’s spectacular creations.

Use this book to discover the names and details of flowers in your neighborhood; flip through it to choose flowers to plant in your yard; or simply enjoy it inside on a rainy day.



Columbine

A favorite among hummingbirds, columbines are hardy wildflowers found all over the northern hemisphere.

» Flower Study «

Columbines come in a variety of lovely colors and are quite easy to recognize once you're familiar with their unique shape. Look at the picture below. Every columbine has five modified petals with both a blade and a spur. The petal spur is shaped like a long horn ending with a knob and is filled with nectar, perfect for hummingbirds and long-tongued insects. The petals are surrounded by five colorful sepals in the shape of a star.



Type: Perennial

Scientific name: *Aquilegia* spp.

Family: Ranunculaceae

Native to: Northern hemisphere



Petal Spur

Petal Blade

Sepal

Dahlia

Did you know that the dahlia was originally classified as a vegetable, not as a flower? That's because the root of the flower is an edible tuber, kind of like a potato! The undeniable beauty of the flower top, though, has made them popular in gardens worldwide. Dahlias come in almost any color and size; some are as small as a button and some can grow as big as your head!

» Flower Study «

Look closely at the petals of the dahlia. Do you see how each petal curls into itself? Notice how the innermost petals curl the most. The many rows of petals on the dahlia flower create a delightful pom-pom look.



Type: Perennial
Scientific Name:
Dahlia spp.
Family: Asteraceae
Native to: Mexico
and Central America





Gardenia

Gardenia, which grows in tropical and subtropical climates, is part of the coffee family. The creamy-white flowers of these woody evergreen shrubs have an intensely wonderful fragrance.

» Flower Study «

Look at the white gardenia petals in the picture above. Imagine plucking one of the petals off and rubbing it gently across your cheek. Can you imagine how velvety soft it must feel? Notice the dazzling spiral shape of every gardenia flower. Even the flower buds are in the form of a spiral!



Type: Perennial

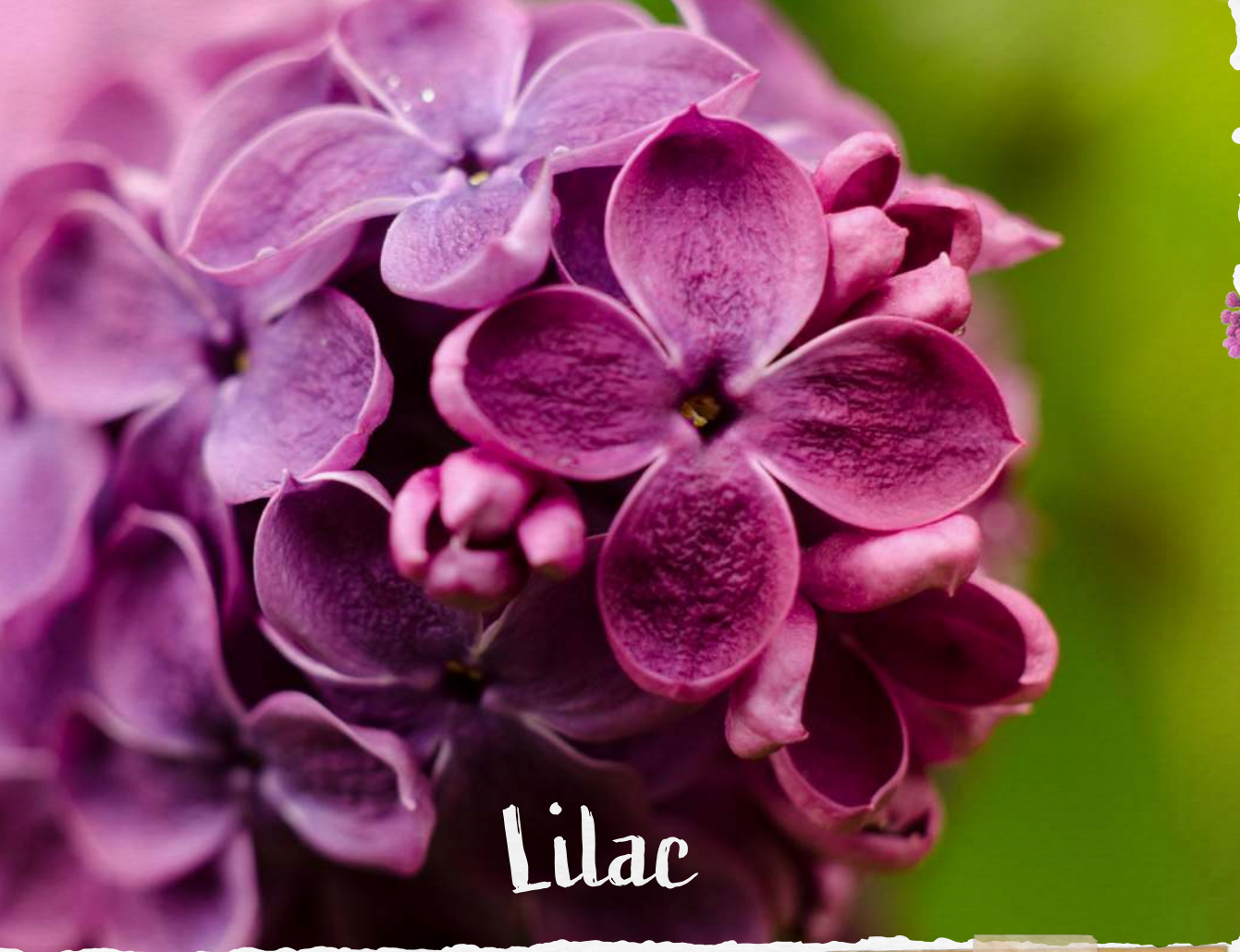
Scientific Name: *Gardenia* spp.

Family: Rubiaceae

Native to: Tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, Madagascar, and the Pacific Islands



Flower Buds



Lilac

Lilacs grow on bushes that can grow as tall and as wide as a small house! Think carefully where you want to plant a lilac bush, because it can live 200 years! The summer blossoms smell incredible. Try never to miss a chance to sniff blooming lilacs if you pass them.

Type: Perennial

Scientific Name: *Syringa* spp.

Family: Oleaceae

Native to: Eastern Europe and Asia

» Flower Study «

Grab a piece of paper and a pencil and draw a lilac flower. Look closely—is your drawing perfectly symmetrical? Take a moment to consider how amazing it is that each of the tens of thousands of simple four-petal blossoms is perfectly symmetrical!



Lily of the Valley

These dainty, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers become red berries after the petals drop. But don't eat them! Every part of this plant is poisonous. It makes a charming ground cover for cooler, shaded areas.

» Flower Study «

If you were the size of a field mouse, wouldn't it be lovely to pretend you were in a symphony playing these bells? Picture yourself sitting on the strappy green leaf. Imagine that each delightful bell has a different sound, and you create a melody as lovely to the ear as the flower is to your sight and smell.



Type: Perennial

Scientific Name: *Convallaria majalis*

Family: Asparagaceae

Native to: Asia and Europe





Plumeria

You may recognize these flowers as those sometimes used to make Hawaiian leis because of their large size, lovely scent, and appealing colors. They are most fragrant at night to entice sphinx moths to pollinate them. They are tricking the moths; they actually have no nectar.

Type: Perennial

Scientific Name:
Plumeria spp.

Family:
Apocynaceae

Native to: Central
America, Mexico,
and the Caribbean

» Flower Study «

Have you ever held a plumeria? They have a sturdy, rubbery feel. Look at the center of the flower and how it extends outward in a fantastic spiral. Imagine stringing plumerias together to make a beautiful lei. What colors would you use? To whom would you give your fragrant lei?





Type: Perennial or annual
Scientific Name: *Ranunculus* spp.
Family: Ranunculaceae
Native to: North America

Ranunculus

If you want to grow flowers perfect for cutting and using in arrangements, try the ranunculus. Its tall stem is perfectly straight and strong, and the mesmerizingly beautiful flower heads, which come in a variety of bold colors, are enough to make any bouquet glow.



» Flower Study «

Can you imagine trying to count the layers and layers of soft, thin ranunculus petals, all tightly bound together into one perfect flower head? How many petals do you think one flower can hold?

Snapdragon

These hardy flowers grow wild across rocky areas of North America, Asia, Europe, and Northern Africa. The flowers bloom starting from the bottom of the stem to the top. Once they have all bloomed, they make a magnificent display! Snapdragons come in just about every color imaginable.

» Flower Study «

Snapdragons are named for their resemblance to the mythical creature. Next time you come across a snapdragon, reach out and pinch the flower gently on each side with your thumb and forefinger; the “mouth” will open with each squeeze!

Type: Annual or Perennial

Scientific Name:
Antirrhinum spp.

Family: Plantaginaceae

Native to: Europe, North
Africa, and North America



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

FLOWER

Study

One of the main purposes of The Good and the Beautiful is to help children feel wonder and appreciation for all of God's creations. In this unique, interactive book, children have the chance to discover forty stunning flowers found around the world, notice incredible patterns, and use their imaginations as they experience delightful details and learn the names of some everyday and unusual flowers.



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

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THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

FLOWER

Game

Zinnia



ZINNIA



Lavandula



LAVENDER



Antirrhinum



» SNAPDRAGON «

Eschscholzia californica



» CALIFORNIA POPPY «

Hyacinthoides non-scripta



BLUEBELL

The Good and the Beautiful FLOWER GAME



This game includes 40 beautiful cards designed to help children recognize, identify, and enjoy the flowers featured in *The Good and the Beautiful Flower Study*. For the purpose of the game, the flowers are divided into 10 color groups: blue, magenta, multicolored, orange, pink, purple, red, violet, white, and yellow. There are four flowers in each color group. (Note: Most of the flowers come in many different colors and shades, not just the color into which they are categorized for this game.)

Reading *The Good and the Beautiful Flower Study* and playing this game will help children learn to truly appreciate the wonders of God's magnificent creations and delight in the details of each flower they see.

There are two different gameplay ideas included with this deck: **Pick a Flower** and **Sun Hat**.

PICK A FLOWER

In this beautiful rendition of "Go Fish," children get to pick flowers from the garden to create their own gardens with flowers of matching colors.

Players: 2-6

Time: 15-30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS

Colors

First, each player must become familiar with the 10 colors in this game. A color guide can be found on this pamphlet and on the inside cover of the game box.

Deal the Cards

For a 2- or 3-player game, deal 7 cards facedown to each player. For a 4- to 6-player game, deal 5 cards each. Then, randomly spread the remainder of the deck facedown in a single layer in the middle. This is the "garden." Players may look at their own cards.

Gameplay

Decide which player will go first (for example, the youngest player goes first or the person whose birthday is coming up next goes first, etc.). Player 1 says the name of another player and asks, "Do you have any [say a color] flowers?" Player 1 must have at least one flower of the color being requested in order to ask for it. For example, "Mom, do you have any magenta flowers?" or "Sam, do you have any purple flowers?" If the person being asked has any flower cards of that color, he or she must give all cards of that color to Player 1.

Any players who can read should say the names of all the flowers they hand over. For example, "Yes, I have a zinnia and a coneflower," or "Yes, I have a tulip." If Player 1 receives any cards, he or she gets another turn. If the person asked does not have any flowers of that color, he or she says, "Pick a flower." Player 1 picks a flower from the garden, and his or her turn is over. Now the player to the left of Player 1 has a turn, and play continues clockwise.

When a player collects 4 flowers of one color, the player places the group of 4 cards faceup to "plant a garden" of that color.

Anytime a player runs out of cards, he or she picks a flower from the garden. When there are no more flowers in the garden, any players without cards can no longer play.

When all ten color groups have been "planted," the game is over. The player(s) with the most planted gardens wins!



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