Studying the main parts of a flower
Examine specimens of large simple flowers such as tulips or lilies. Count the stamens and observe how they are arranged about the central pistil. Make large diagrams of the essential organs. Label the parts of the pistil (stigma, style and ovary). Label the parts of the stamen (filament and anther). The end of the stalk on which the flower grows is called the receptacle. At the base of the receptacle there are usually leaf-like structures that enclose the bud. These are called sepals. Above the sepals there is usually a ring of brightly coloured petals called the corolla.

Dissecting simple flowers
Label each of five cards or pieces of paper with one of the following words: stem, pistil, petals, sepals, receptacle. Dissect a flower carefully and place the parts neatly on the appropriate cards. Some flowers can be pulled apart quite easily but a knife or scissors may be needed for others. If a sufficient number of flowers are available this exercise is most valuable as an individual pupil activity. Simple flowers with a single row of petals should be selected. Pick up one of the stamens and rub the anther lightly across a piece of black paper. Traces of pollen will usually be seen.
Cut the ovary crosswise with a sharp knife and count the ovules or 'seed pockets'. Look for traces of seeds in the ovules.