

## THE NATIVE BEAUTY OF HAWAII: FLOWERS

**Ages:**  
15-18

**Description:**

In this activity you will be able to identify and learn about a few of the many flowers found on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii! You will also be able to discover their cultural significance in an interactive way!

**Time:**

20-30 minutes

**Materials Needed:**

- Your inner botanist!
- Optional: Download the free Plantsnap app to your smart device (smart device must have a working camera).

**Instructions**

For this activity all you need to do is follow along with the article, easy peasy! If you would like to learn more about the plant life around your home download the Plantsnap app to your smart device and follow along with the instructions for using the Plantsnap app below.

**Let's Begin!**

Flower 1:

The first flower that we will examine is the Kahle Bougainvillea, also known as the paper flower. The leaves of the paper flower can be many different colors, but the flower itself is always white and does not have a strong floral scent. The paper flower is not native to Hawaii, it was brought over around 1827. Now however it can be seen all over the island of Oahu. It grows on a shrub and is covered in sharp thorns. Other than it's widespread presence it does not have a major cultural significance but it is quite beautiful! To learn even more about this flower click [here!](#) And [here!](#)



Flower 2:

The second flower that we will examine is Frangipani, also known as Plumeria. There are hundreds of varieties of Plumeria. They are quite fragrant and are often worn behind the ear as pictured. If the flower is placed behind the left ear, it means you are married, have a significant other, or are not interested in being approached in that way. If placed behind the right ear, it means you are single and or possibly looking for that sort of connection. They are often used to make traditional Hawaiian lei and are quite fragrant. For more information regarding the Plumeria, click [here!](#)



### Flower 3:

The third flower that we will examine is the Hawaiian hibiscus, also known as Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, or Aloalo. This flower is considered endangered, and interestingly the bloom only lasts about a day before falling off of the plant. Hawaii's state flower is the yellow hibiscus. The flower itself does not have much of an aroma. For more information about Aloalo, click [here!](#)



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#### Flower 4:

The fourth flower that we will examine is the Pikake, also known as Jasmine or *Jasminum sambac*. This flower is not native to Hawaii, but once it arrived it soon became a favorite of many royals. The flower was given its name by the last princess of Hawaii, Princess Kaiulani. She named it after her favorite animal, the peacock. Pikake translated literally means peacock. Much like the previously mentioned *Plumeria*, this aromatic flower is often used to make traditional Hawaiian lei. For more information about Pikake, click [here!](#)



#### Flower 5:

The fifth and final flower we will examine is the *Crinum asiaticum*, also known as the Poisonbulb. The entire plant is poisonous if eaten, thus earning its name. This flower is included in the article due to its abundant presence on the island. This flower does not have much of an aroma.



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## Instructions for using Plantsnap App

### Step 1:

With a guardian's permission, download the free Plantsnap app from the app store on your smart device (smartphone or tablet).

\*\*Please note that the app does not need to be Plantsnap specifically, there are many plant identifier applications (free and for purchase).

### Step 2:

Open the app and create an account, you will be prompted for your name (first and last) and an active email address. You will also be asked about location and camera access/settings, please make sure you check with a guardian before selecting your preferences.

### Step 3:

You are all set up! Now all you have to do is find an unknown plant, snap a picture, and learn! Below are screen shot examples for the Plantsnap process.



#### Description

*Bougainvillea glabra*, the lesser bougainvillea or paperflower, is the most common species of bougainvillea used for bonsai.

It is an evergreen, climbing shrub with thorny stems. It usually grows 10–12 ft (3.0–3.7 m) tall, occasionally up to 30 ft (9 m). Tiny white flowers usually appear in clusters surrounded by colorful papery bracts, hence the name paperflower. The leaves are dark green, variable in shape, up to 4 in (10 cm) long. The flowers are about 0.4 cm in diameter (the pink petal-like structures are not petals, but bracts.)

#### Kingdom

Plantae

#### Subkingdom

Tracheobionta

### What is a lei?

For more information on the cultural significance and use of a Hawaiian lei, click [here!](#)

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## ACTIVITY RECAP

### Discovery Questions:

- What did you learn during this activity? Were there any flowers mentioned in the article that you already knew about?
- Why might it be important to be able to identify plants and know their uses?
- How will you personally expand on the basic information provided in this article?
- With a parent/guardian's permission, share with us what you think of the Native Beauty of Hawaii: Flowers article and share your own plant snaps on our Instagram page with the tag @girlsincindy.

### RESOURCES

<https://images.app.goo.gl/ruQab7ARoahaMrFG7>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibiscus\\_rosa-sinensis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibiscus_rosa-sinensis)

<https://www.alohatherapy.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Jasmine-sambac.jpg>

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