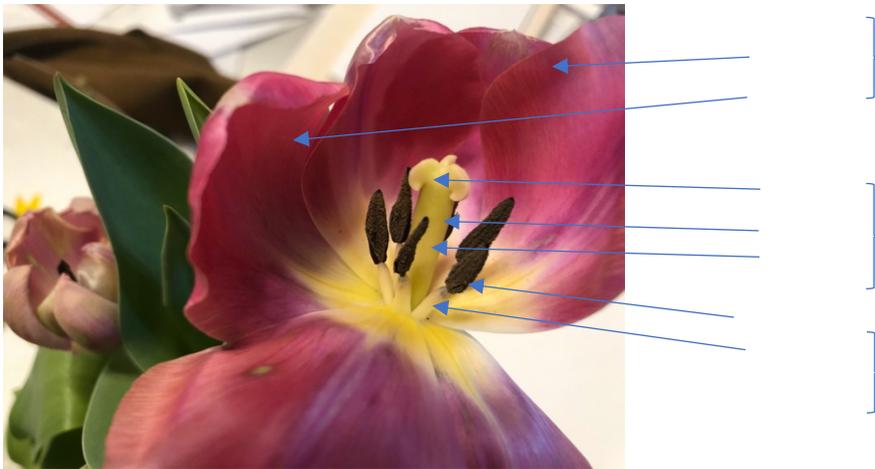


## Spring Flowers: Tulips

### Questions

1. Where and when were tulips first discovered?
2. How and why did tulips come to Holland?
3. What is the name of the famous tulip garden showcase? Where is it held?
4. How many varieties of tulips are there?
5. What is the tulip connection between Holland and Canada?
6. Who started the tulip festival parade in Ottawa?
7. Why was the 2020 tulip festival so special?
8. Identify and label the parts of the tulip on the diagram below.



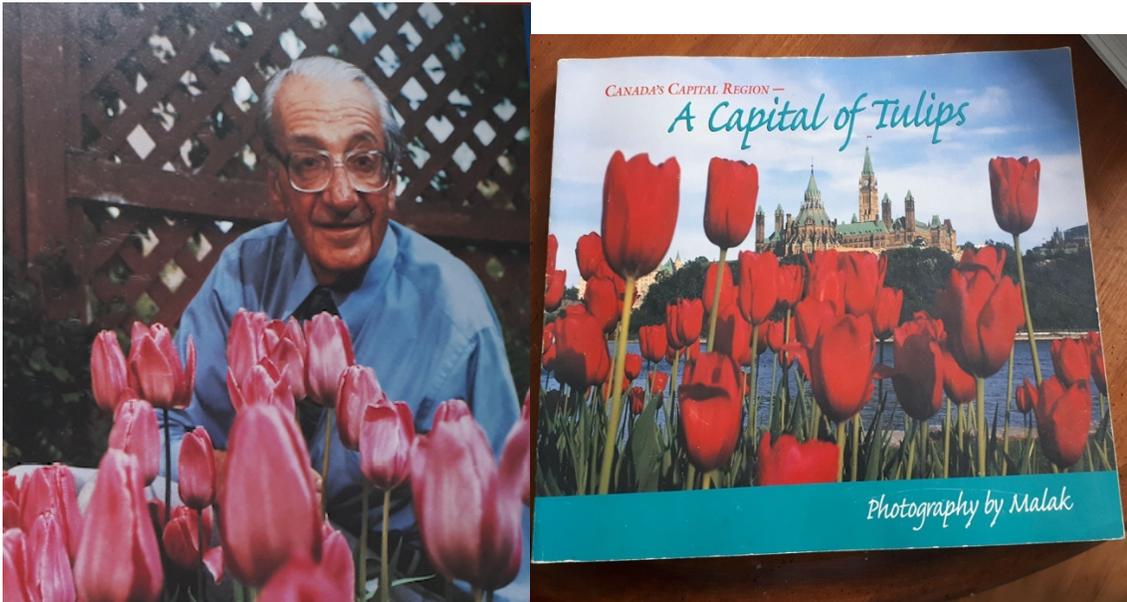
## Answers

- 1. From Kazakhstan to Turkey:** Tulips were first discovered in the mountains of Kazakhstan near the Caspian Sea in the 1500s. Their beauty caught the eye of Sultan Suleyman the First, leader of the Ottoman Empire. “Tulip” comes from the Arabic word “dulban,” which means “turban,” a reference to the flower’s shape. They soon became a symbol of wealth and power, and other leaders in the empire sought tulips for their gardens. Sultans began wearing tulips on their turbans.  
**From Turkey to Austria:** Constantinople, now Istanbul, was a Turkish city located at the mouth of the Black Sea. The Great Silk Road passed through this area, and trade thrived. The sultan hosted parties of wealthy elites and gave away tulips to guests. In 1550, one of his guests was Ogler Gheslin de Busqecq, ambassador from Vienna. De Busqecq gave some of the tulips to his friend Karolus Klussius, who was in charge of the gardens for the Austrian Emperor.
- 2. From Austria to Holland:** Klussius was invited to the Dutch University of Leiden to head the medicinal herb garden, where he first planted tulips in 1593. Konrad Gessner, a Swiss botanist, was the first to describe the species tulip in 1559, demonstrating that the flower had international interest. Tulips were desirable for their rarity, creating a fierce market for them that peaked in 1634. One tulip was the same price as a house on the canal in Amsterdam! The market bubble burst in 1637 – some investors became very rich investing in tulips, while others lost everything. This is the first recorded speculative bubble in history.
- 3. Today:** Tulips can still be found in the Asku/Zhabagly National Nature Park in southern Kazakhstan. Holland has developed a huge tulip industry and showcases them in the Kuekenhof Gardens, visited by thousands of tourists each year. Blooms are harvested so that the bulbs may be developed and later sold. Dutch cities decorate with these blooms, stringing garlands and other creations around town. Holland produces 4.3 billion tulip bulbs per year, and there are tulip festivals all around the world. Istanbul’s spring festival sees more than 10 million tulip blossoms.
- 4. Varieties:** The first tulips had flamed flowers, where the petals had streaks that looked like fire. It was later discovered that this was the result of a virus in the plant. There are more than 3,000 registered varieties, divided into two types based on flowering time period and bloom height. There are 15 subcategories that deal with more specific differences.
- 5. Connection with Canada:** During World War II, Juliana, Crown Princess of Holland, and her family came to live in Canada. Her daughter Margriet was born in Ottawa Civic Hospital in 1943. The Canadian government temporarily declared the hospital’s maternity ward extraterritorial, meaning outside of the country’s borders. Since Dutch citizenship is determined by blood, this meant her citizenship was solely Dutch – a very important distinction in terms of monarchy succession. Canadian soldiers were integral to the liberation of Holland during

World War II. Thousands of their graves are maintained, and annual ceremonies are held where school children lay down tulip bouquets in their honor. The tradition of giving tulip bulbs to Canada as a thank-you gift began in 1945. Canada receives 20,000 from Holland each year.

Later in her life, Margriet attended the University of Leiden – where tulips were first brought to Holland in 1543.

- 6. Ottawa's Tulip Festival:** Ottawa's tulip festival was initiated and led by Malak Karsh, a renowned Canadian nature photographer. He was inspired by Queen Juliana's gift of 100,000 tulip bulbs. Malak received many awards and honors in his lifetime, including being named an Officer of the Order of Canada. The tulip became Ottawa's official flower in 2001, and in 2005, Ottawa created the Karsh Award for honoring photo-based artists. Images: Malak Karsh with his namesake tulips and the cover of a book containing his photographs. Photos courtesy of Marianne Karsh.



- 7. 2020's Significance:** 2020's tulip festival commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holland's liberation at the end of World War II.

**8. Identify and Label a Tulip:** See diagrams below.



**Single Tulip: Side View**



Petals of corolla (blossom)  
and sepals are the same colour in tulips

Stem  
Leaf

**Single Tulip: Top View**



Find these parts from outside to middle, in order:  
leaf, petal, corolla, black anther (top filament of one  
male stamen), 3-sided stigma (top of 3-part female  
pistil).

Note that the style and ovary are beneath the stigma.