

TULIP ACTIVITY SUITE

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE TENDER TULIP?



Field of tulips



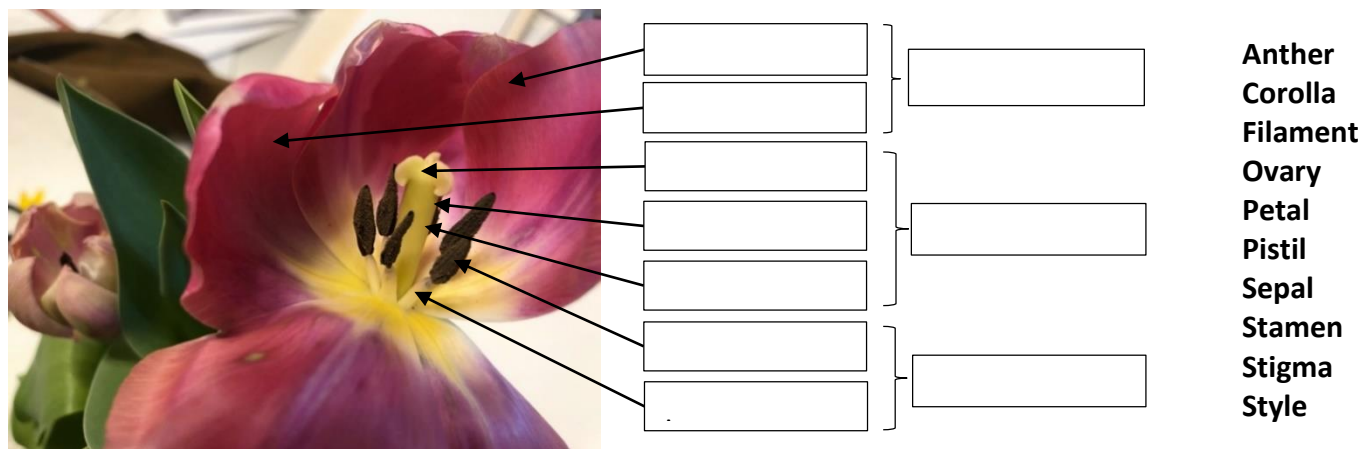
Tulip flower



Harvested tulips

A. First, try your hand at labelling the parts of the tulip flower!

The tulip flower is a bell-shaped flower with three petals and three sepals which look almost identical (and for this reason, all six are sometimes instead referred to as “tepals”). There are six free stamens arranged in 2 whorls of three, and the three-lobed ovary ends with a three-lobed stigma.



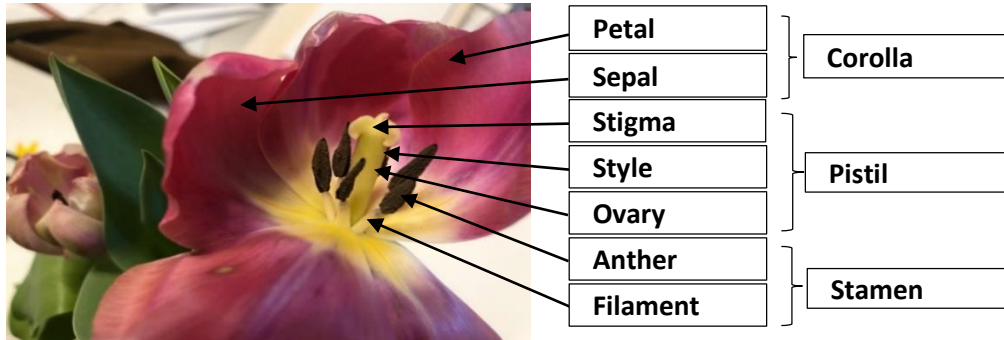
B. Tulip Quiz

1. From where does the word “tulip” originate?
2. How many species and varieties of tulips are there?
3. How is tulip pollen spread?
4. For best results when growing tulips, when and how should they be planted?
5. How did tulips get to Holland?
6. What was “tulipomania”?
7. What is a “broken” tulip?
8. Where in the world is the most famous festival of tulips and why was 2020 a significant year for that festival?
9. What is the “tulip connection” between Holland and Canada?
10. Where, when and by whom, was the annual Canadian Tulip Festival founded?

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ANSWER KEY

A. Tulip Flower - Labelled



B. Tulip Quiz - Answers

1. "Tulip" is the latinized version of the Turkish word "Tulband" derived from the Persian word "dulband," which means "round", in reference to the flower's shape.
2. There are about 75 species of tulips in 4 subgenera. In all there are more than 3,000 registered varieties, divided into two types based on flowering time period and bloom height, and then further divided into 15 subcategories according to other characteristics.
3. Unlike many other flowers, the spread of tulip pollen is not by pollinating insects but instead depends on the wind and land animals.
4. For best success tulip bulbs should be planted in the fall, 6-8 weeks before the ground is expected to freeze, in well-drained soil with neutral to slightly acidic pH. Plant the bulbs with the pointy end up at least 2 inches apart and 8 inches deep but dig a hole deeper than that in order to loosen the soil, add a layer of compost and allow for proper drainage. In clay soils, plant the bulbs less deep, about 3 to 6 inches. Bulbs should be spaced at least 2 inches apart. Only water when the ground is dry as tulips do not like too much moisture or humidity.
5. Tulips originated in Central Asia (in what is now Kazakhstan) and were first cultivated in Persia (now Iran) but eventually made their way to other regions including the city of Constantinople (now Istanbul), a key stop on the Great Silk Road. It was here that Sultan Süleiman the First hosted parties with elites and diplomats, giving out tulip bulbs from his gardens. In 1550, one guest was Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, Viennese ambassador to Turkey at the time who then sent some bulbs to his friend Carolus Clusius, a botanist and director of the Emperor's gardens in Vienna. Clusius was later hired in 1593 by the University of Leiden to be the first director of their new Hortus Academicus botanical garden and it was his cultivation of tulips there that was the beginning of the Dutch tulip bulb industry. Today, the Netherlands is the world's largest producer of commercial tulips, producing more than four billion bulbs annually, the majority for export.

6. After introduction to the Netherlands, tulips soon became very desirable with the variegated “broken” tulips kind, those that had streaks like flames, even more so and this created a fierce market for them with certain varieties even acceptable as a dowry! “Tulipomania” refers to the height of the speculative frenzy in the Netherlands over the sale of tulip bulbs when, from 1633-1637, the demand for the differently coloured varieties of tulips far exceeded the supply. The “tulip bubble” eventually burst in 1637, one of the most famous market crashes in history.
7. The flame like streaks on the “broken” tulips that were so prized during Tulip Mania were actually a result of infestation by the tulip breaking virus, a mosaic virus that is carried by the green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae*. Because this virus also weakens the tulip plant and limits its proliferation, today the virus has been eradicated from most tulip growers’ fields and any multi coloured varieties we see today are instead a result of breeding.
8. Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse, Holland, hosts the most famous tulip festival, with over 7 million flowers of 800 different varieties blooming for tourists to view from late-March to Mid-May. The plants are also harvested for the bulbs, and for decorations. Other notable festivals are held in Istanbul, Canada, India, Australia and the United States. 2020 was a significant year for Keukenhof because not only did 2020 mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Holland it was also the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic which forced Keukenhof to cancel in-person visits, and instead provide virtual “visits” via drone videos throughout the blooming season.
9. During World War II, Princess Juliana of Holland and her family came to live in Canada. Juliana’s daughter Margriet was also born at the Ottawa Civic Hospital at which time the Canadian government temporarily declared the hospital’s maternity ward extraterritorial, allowing Margriet’s citizenship to be solely Dutch. Following the war, in 1945, the Dutch royal family sent a gift of 100,000 bulbs to Ottawa to thank Canada for its kindness and for aiding in the liberation of Holland. This tradition still continues with 20,000 bulbs shipped each year. More than a million tulips are planted every year in Ottawa, and in 2001 the tulip became Ottawa’s official flower.
10. The Canadian Tulip Festival is held in Ottawa and was founded in 1953 by Malak Karsh, a renowned Canadian nature photographer who was inspired by the beauty and history of the tulips blooming in the region. Malak received many awards and honors, including Officer of the Order of Canada and, in 2003, two years after his passing, Ottawa introduced the Karsh Award in honour of Malak and his brother Yousuf, also a renowned photographer, for their contributions to the cultural heritage of Ottawa. **Images below:** Malak Karsh (left) and (right) the cover of his book about the tulips of Ottawa. *Photos courtesy of Marianne Karsh, Malak’s daughter and founder of Arborvitae, an organization dedicated to teaching the many benefits of connecting with the Earth.*

