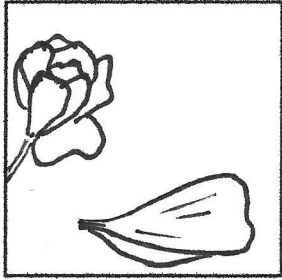
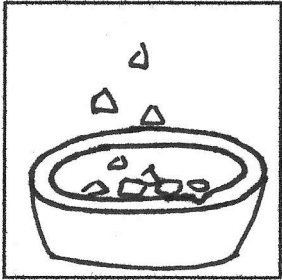


Flower colours

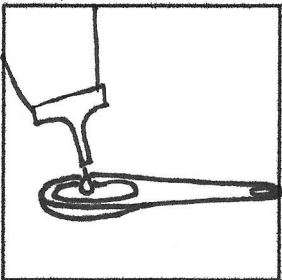
Mash a flower petal and change its colour to investigate how flowers make their different colours.



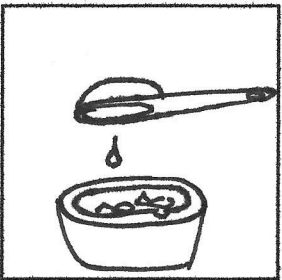
Pick up a loose petal, or pick one from the flower.



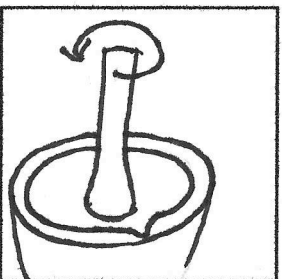
Tear the petal into small pieces and put them in the mortar.



Fill the spoon to the brim with water.

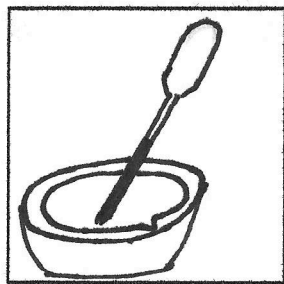


Add the water to the petal.

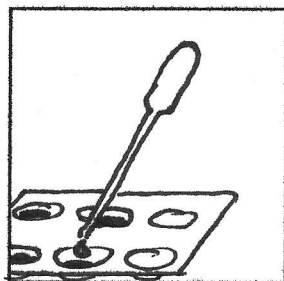


Push down while you grind in a circle.
Keep grinding until the water is as dark as the petal.

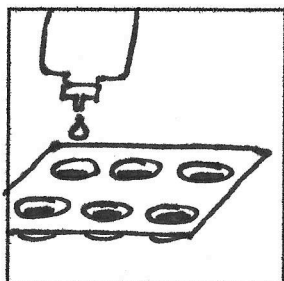
It's important that you get the water really dark.



Suck up the petal juice with a dropper.



Put a few drops of petal juice in each well of a tray.



**Add a drop or two of acid to one well of the petal juice.
Add a drop or two of base to another.**

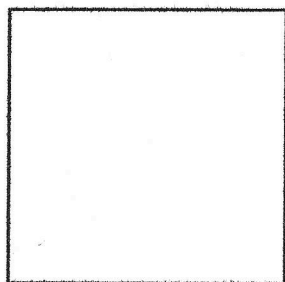
What new colours do you see?

**Experiment with the petal juice and acid and base:
Can you change one colour into another, then back?**

What's going on?

Some coloured chemicals in flowers can change colour - they are pink/orange in acid and purple/blue in base.

So flowers can make some of their different colours by having different levels of acid or base in their petals.



**When you are done, please
wipe out the mortar and
tray with a tissue.**

Pick up
a take-home sheet
to try this activity at home.