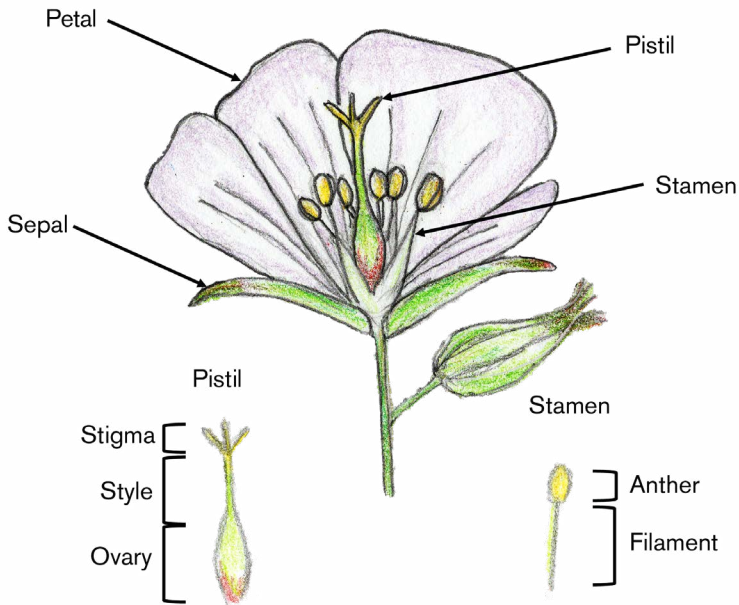


Sitting quietly in nature and observing the life and patterns going on around you can be a relaxing experience. Recording your feelings, thoughts and observations in a Nature Journal will help you reflect on the experience and can set the stage for future observations and reflections.

## Flower Parts Diagram



### Parts of a Simple Flower

**Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum***

#### Definitions:

**Sepals** — The outermost part of the flower, often green but sometimes looking like petals, that usually enclose the flower bud before it opens.

**Petals** — The inner ring of the flower that tend to be brightly colored and often function to attract pollinators.

**Stamen** — The male part of the flower that serves to produce pollen; it is composed of the pollen-bearing anther and the stalk-like filament.

**Pistil** — The female part of the flower that typically consists of the stigma at the top which receives the pollen, the narrow style, and the ovary which contains ovules that will later develop into seeds.

### Parts of a Composite Flower

**Green and Gold, *Chrysogonum virginianum***

#### Notes:

Composite flowers can be made of all ray flowers that look like the petals of a “normal” flower (e.g. *dandelions*), all small knobby disk flowers (e.g. *thistles*), or both types (like this one, *Green and Gold*). The single petal on a ray flower is called a ligule. On both ray and disk flowers, the pollen-producing anthers are typically fused together into a tube; on a disk flower, the petals are also typically fused. The pistil, commonly with two curling lobes, emerges as each disk or ray flower matures. In *Green and Gold*, the ray flowers are lacking stamens (*pistillate*).

