

Flowers Are Calling by Rita Gray

Book Synopsis: *Flowers Are Calling* by Rita Gray and illustrated by Kenard Pak is a beautiful and informative children's book that describes pollinators and many different types of flowers that can be found within gardens. With rhyming phrases and informative text about a variety of flowers, the story shows the necessary relationship between plants, animals and insects.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



Connection to Iowa History

Iowa is home to a wide variety of different plants and many types of beautiful flowers. In 1897, the Iowa General Assembly declared the wild rose the official state flower. The wild rose was chosen because it was included in the design of silver service created for the USS Iowa battleship. The flower can be found across the state and is easily spotted due to its pink petals and bright yellow stamens.

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading or listening to the book, fold and create your very own Origami paper flower.

Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 **Lay flat.** Lay the Origami paper on a flat surface. Fold the Origami paper corner to corner, so it forms a triangle.
- 2 **Second fold.** Fold the paper again, from corner to corner, using the corners created along the folded edge.
- 3 **Third fold.** Fold the paper one more time, corner to corner, using the corners that are farthest apart. This will make a small triangle with all of the folds creating a point.
- 4 **Cut.** Hold the paper at the point where all the folds meet, and use scissors to carefully cut away a *TINY* amount of the paper point. This hole gets three times larger once you unfold the paper so only make a small cut. This cut will eventually be the hole for your stem when the paper is unfolded.
- 5 **Snip.** Hold the paper where you just made the hole for the stem and carefully use scissors to cut away the paper along the top and side of the triangle. Be sure to leave some of the folded parts intact so your flower stays together once opened. Think about different designs to cut out to make your flower unique.
- 6 **Unfold.** After you're done cutting around the triangle, open the paper to see your design. If you want to make changes, fold it up again and cut more. Be careful not to cut too much off.

Materials

- Double-sided, colored Origami paper
- Pipe cleaner
- Scissors

Instructions continued on next page

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Instructions continued

- 7 Create layers.** Continue steps 1-6 on new pieces of paper to make as many layers as you'd like in your flower. Remember as you create your flower to cut away more of each piece of paper so that each layer is a different size, in order to see the layers in the flower.
- 8 Attach.** Once you've created all the layers you want for your flower, lay the papers in your preferred order and thread a pipe cleaner through the center holes. Bend the pipe cleaner multiple times on each side of the flower so your paper doesn't fall off or slide down the pipe cleaner.
- 9 Share!** After you make your flower, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your creation to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with others!
- 10 Questions to Spark Learning**
 - Do you think the wild rose should be Iowa's state flower? Why or why not?
 - Iowa is home to lots of different types of plants, animals and insects. Do you think Iowa should also have official animals and insects as well? If you had to choose, what would you select and why?
 - *Flowers Are Calling* explores different types of flowers found in gardens. What would you like to grow if you had a garden?