



Activity

In this activity, students will use rose petals to engage in a perfume-making activity that will help them understand the correlation between the raw and processed plant forms. This activity can be experienced by each student separately, or it can be conducted as a group activity, with the instructor asking students to participate in certain steps and producing enough product for each student to have a sample.

MATERIALS

- Rose petals (estimate 2 roses per student, of a fragrant variety)
- Other fragrant plants, such as lavender (optional)
(make sure that any additional plants do not contain skin irritants)
- Small, resilient bowls and mashing implements to act as mortar and pestle
- Soaking bowls
- Strainers
- Water
- Small bottles with tops

STEPS

1



Before having students work with the roses, rinse them off to remove chemicals that may have been used to grow them commercially.

2



Have students pull petals off roses, tear them into small bits, and put them into the mortar. Have the students mash petals with the pestle.

3



Put the mash into a bowl of hot water. Let the bowl sit in the sun for a few minutes; heat will intensify the fragrance in the water.

4



Strain the rose water, saving the petals. Repeat mashing, soaking, and straining with same rose petals and same water. Stop when the water is fragrant and a deep, rich color.

5



Pour perfume into small sample bottles for students to have.