Flowers

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Some people even use flowers to decorate their mailbox!

More flowers!

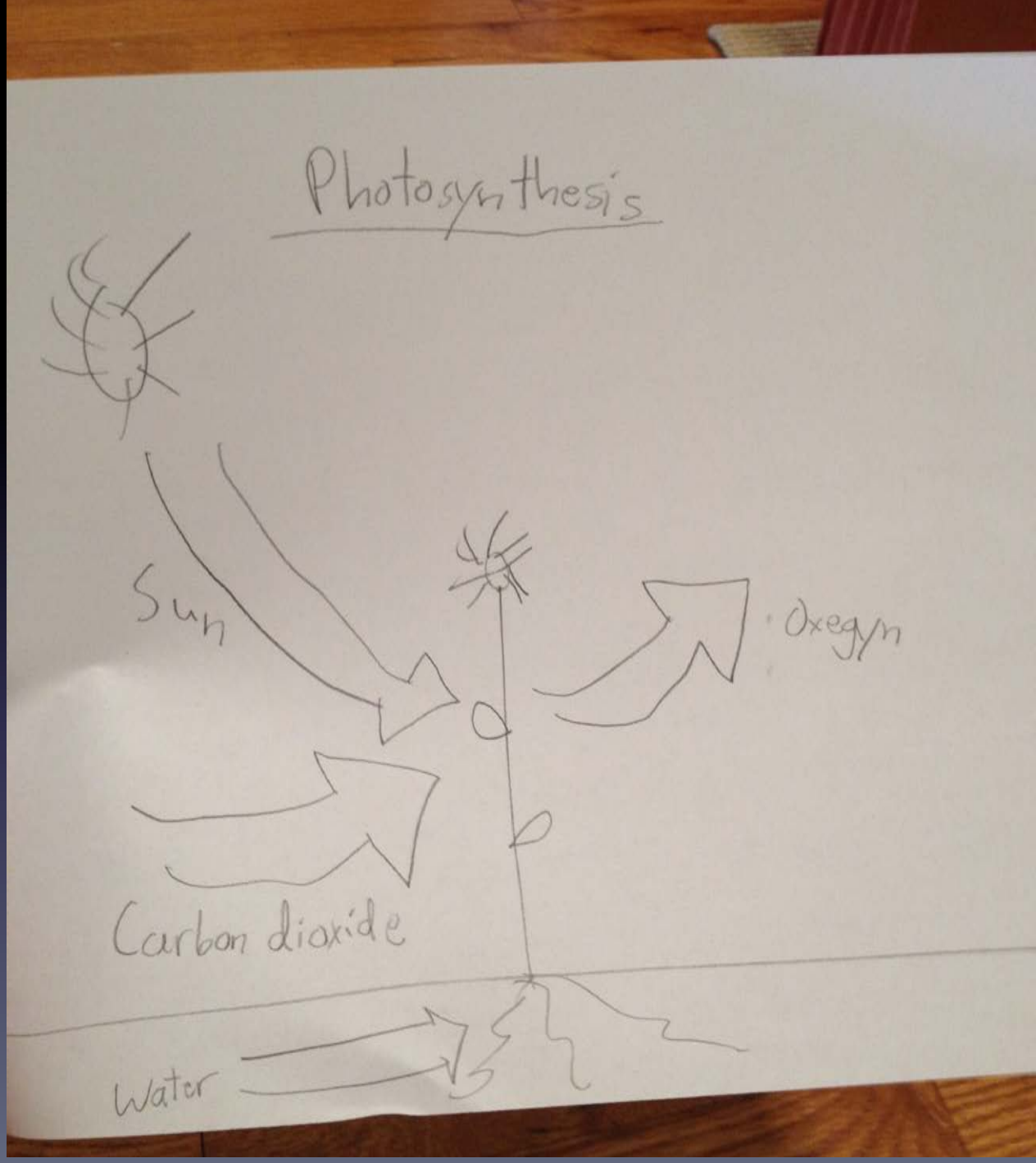
These flowers are in a crowded bunch!

Someone walks down the sidewalk of Park Avenue. "Wow!" The person says, marveling at the beautiful flowers. "Those flowers look marvelous!" What the person doesn't know is that flowers do more than just serve as pretty decorations. Flowers help us live better lives. They do this by growing their own fruits, giving us fresh oxygen, and by aiding in the making of honey.

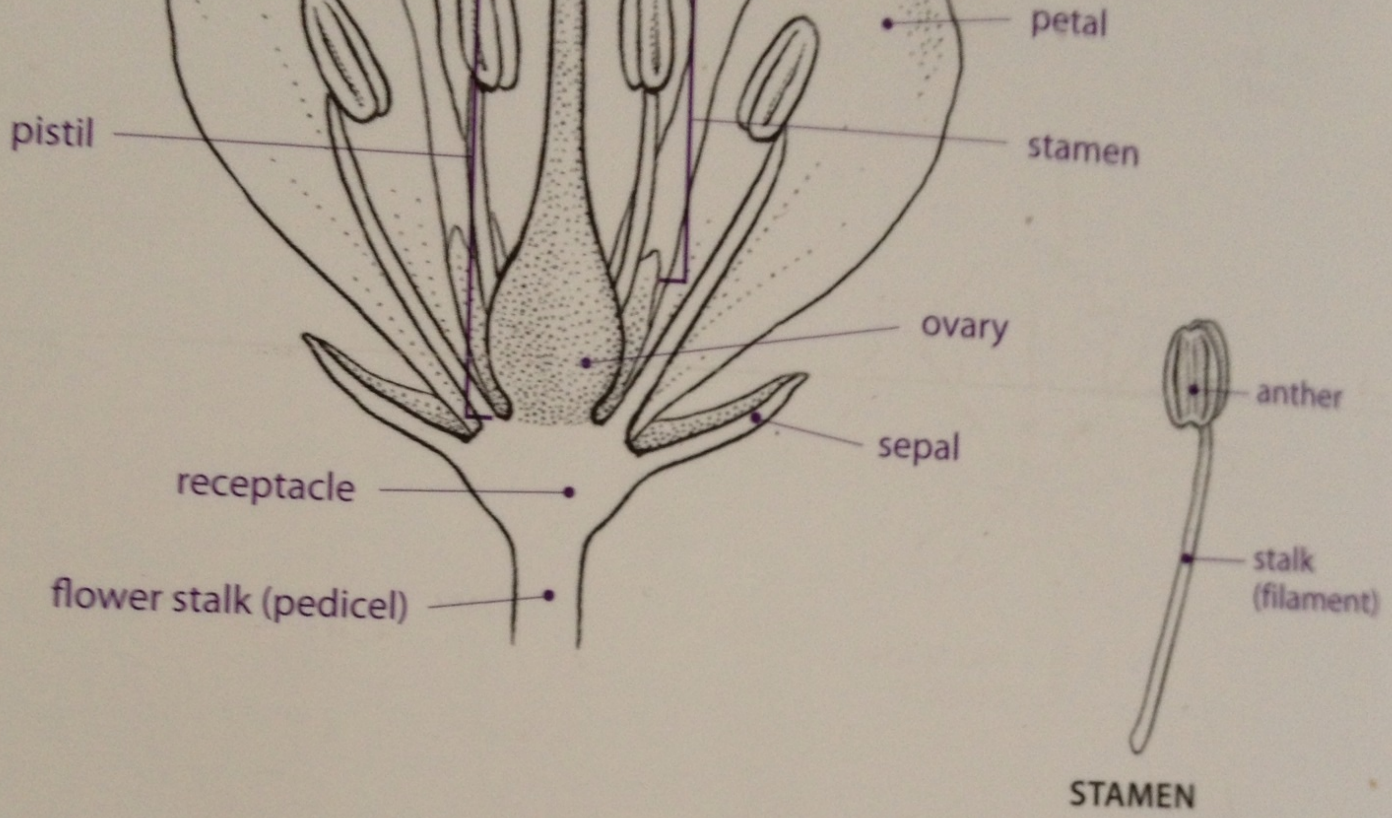
These flowers and the leaves around it produce fresh oxygen to people walking by.

For example, the *pedicel* (flower stalk) grows leaves, or is connected to another stalk with leaves that's still part of the flower. These leaves have the ability to convert carbon dioxide into fresh oxygen. This is achieved through a process called *photosynthesis*. Photosynthesis can only occur when there is water (which enters through the roots), carbon dioxide (which enters because of substances on a leaf called *stomata*), *chlorophyll* (a green chemical in a plant's cells), and light present. Using these substances, flowers make fresh oxygen so we can breathe better.

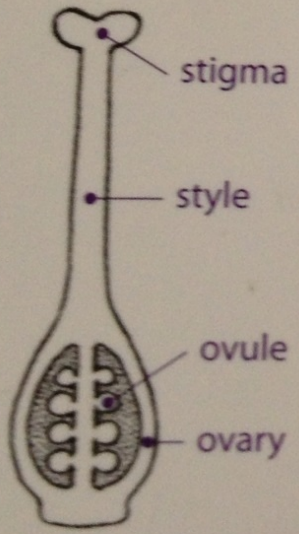
This picture shows how flowers make oxygen.

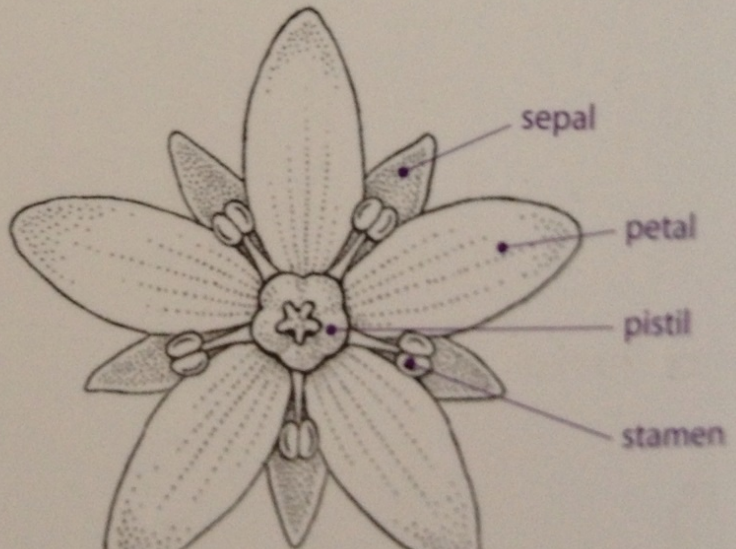


In addition to that, flowers make their own fruits. The first step in achieving this is *pollination*, which is the transfer of pollen from a male flower's *anther* (the male reproductive organ of a flower) to a female flower's *stigma* (the female reproductive organ of a flower) via insects or wind. The pollen grains that were carried from the male (which contain male sex cells) are transported down a slender tube connected to the *stigma* that leads to the *ovary*, where the *ovules* in it will fertilize and turn the *ovule* into fruit, which humans or other animals can consume.



STAMEN





As you can see, flowers actually have a somewhat sophisticated anatomy.

Lastly, flowers help in the making of honey. This is because flowers contain *nectar*, a vital ingredient in the making of honey. Bees extract and swallow a flower's nectar using their extremely long tongue (which is twice as long as their body.) This nectar is broken down into sugars inside a bee's body and is later made into honey.

Bees can come to these flowers for nectar.

As you can see, flowers don't just provide a decorative twist to a place that may otherwise be a bit bland but also help humans in ways we may be oblivious to. These include making fresh oxygen, producing fruit, and aiding in the making of honey, which many people are fond of. So when you see a flower, remember that it is doing more than just looking pretty (or ugly)- it is helping us live better lives.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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