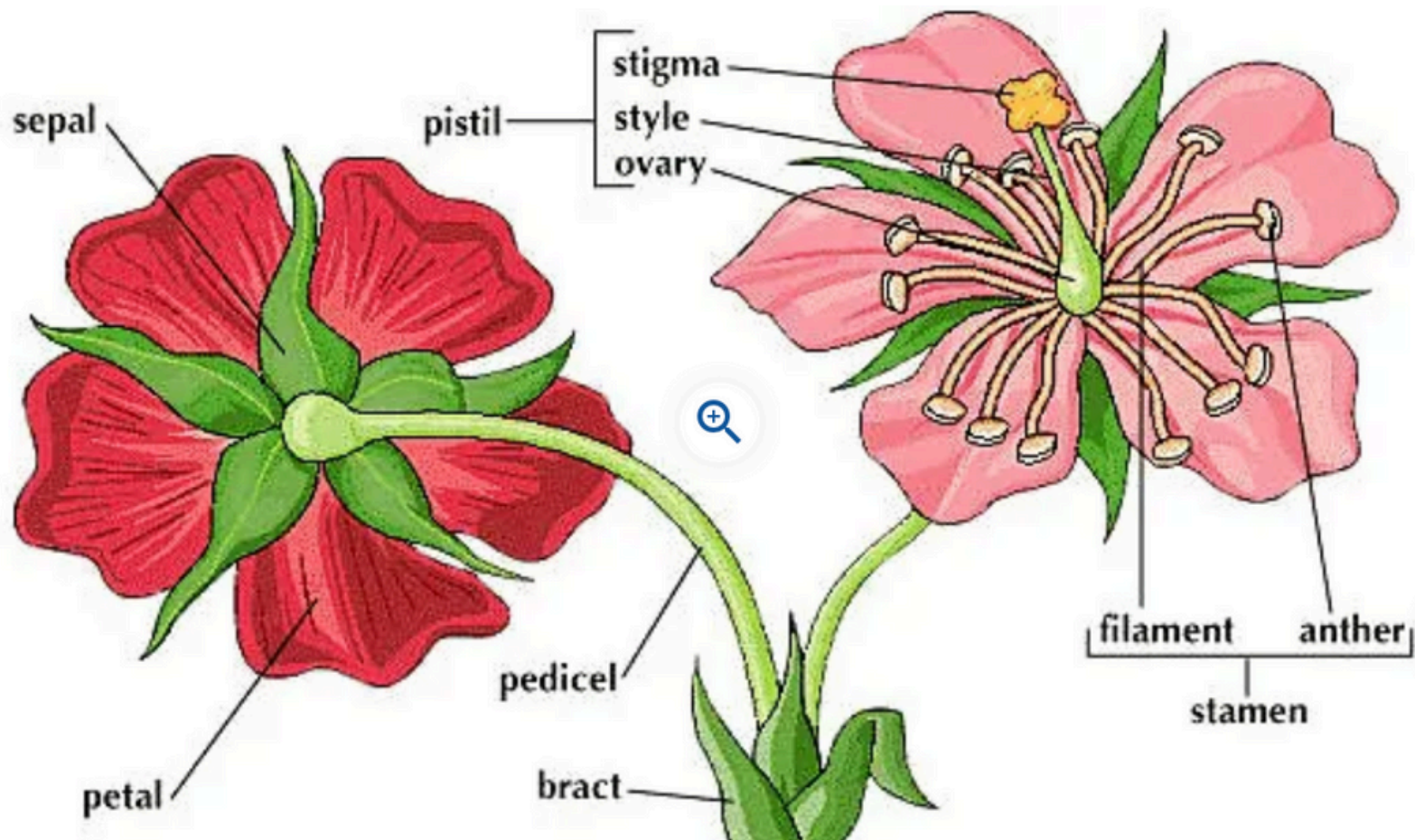




# THE OUTER PARTS OF A FLOWER

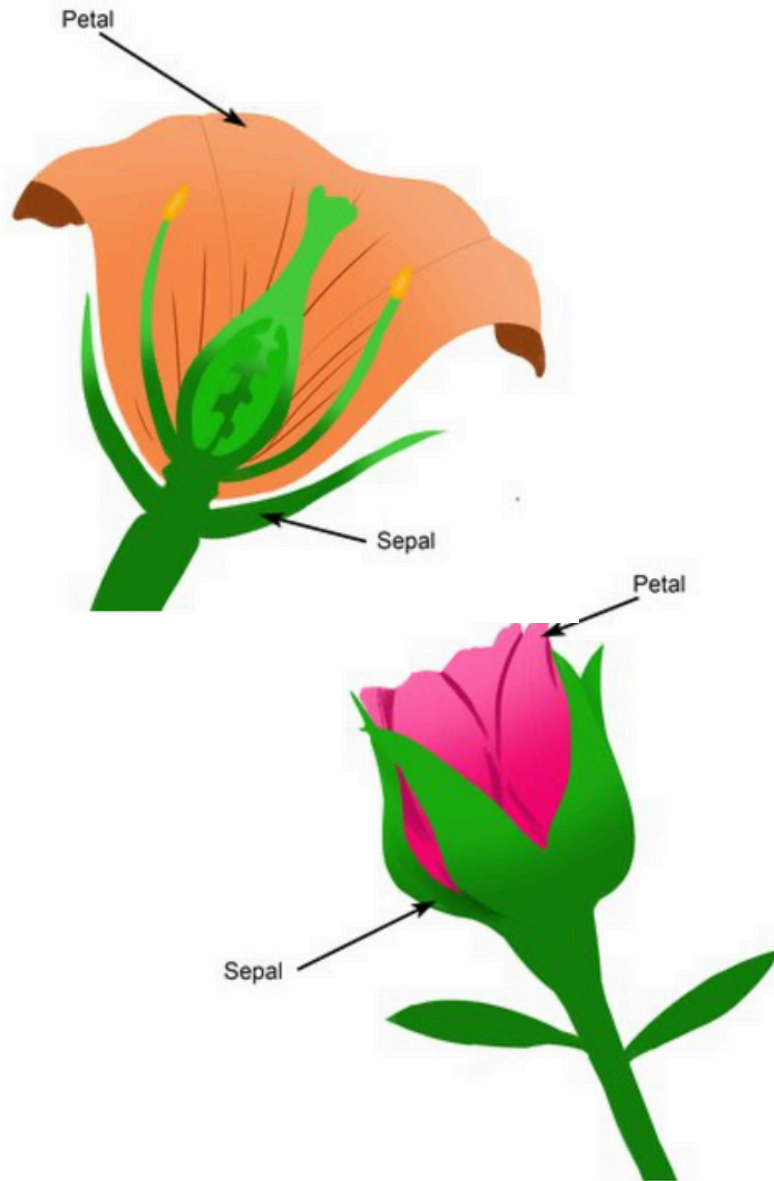
***Every flower part serves some purpose in the making of seeds.  
Let's learn a little more about some of these different flower parts.***



Source: <https://kids.britannica.com/students/assembly/view/53332>



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEPALS AND PETALS



- **Sepals** are small, petal like structures which sit below the petals and often form the covering of the flower when it is in bud form (before the flower opens).
- Sepals are often green and relatively thick.
- Sepals make food and protect reproductive parts of a flower while petals are colorful to attract insects for pollination.



# WHAT ARE TEPALS?



Source: [www.shutterstock.com/](http://www.shutterstock.com/)

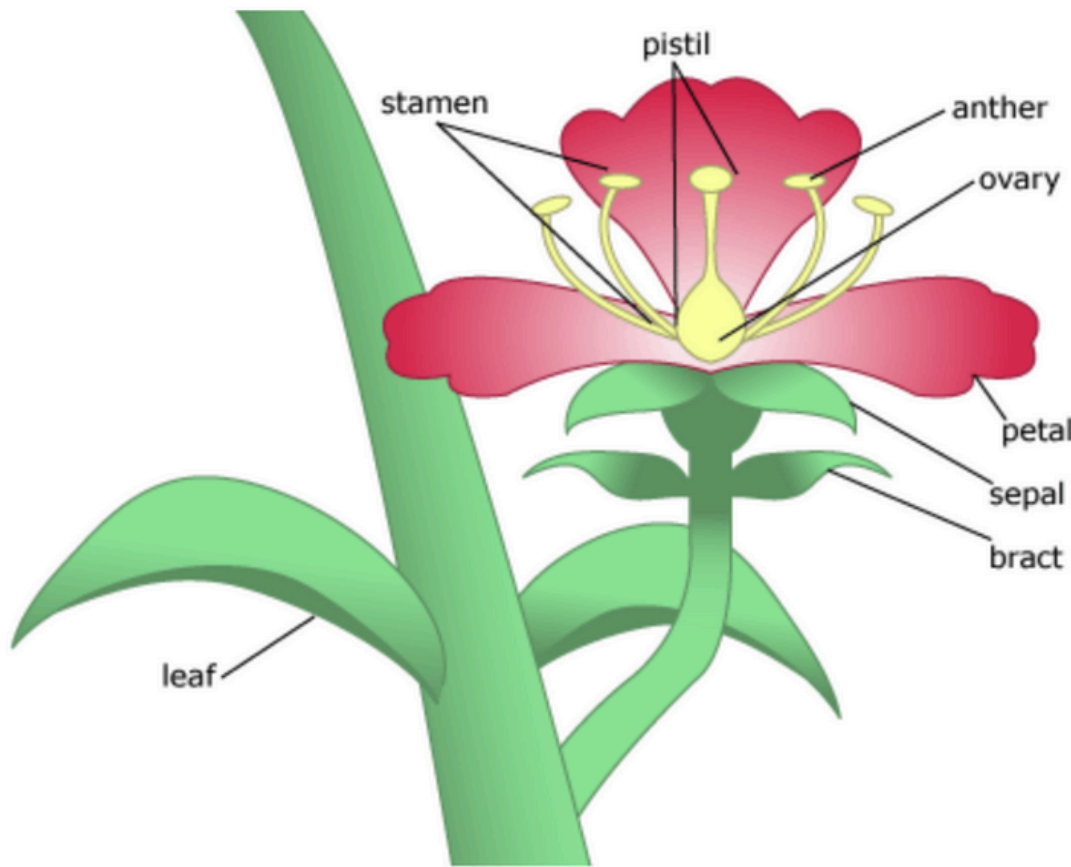
***Parrot Tulip***

Say *THAT* sentence ten times fast! 

- When sepals and petals look alike, they are called **tepals**.
- Tepals just look like petals without sepals below them. Tulips are examples of plants with tepals.
- A tepal is a part of the outer part of a flower in which the petals and sepals are of similar shape and color, and therefore cannot be easily distinguished from one another.
- In some plants, the flowers have no petals, and all the tepals are sepals modified to look like petals.



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PETALS AND LEAVES



Source: <https://evolution.berkeley.edu/what-makes-a-petal-a-petal/>:

- **Petals** are modified leaves that surround the reproductive parts of flowers.
- They are often brightly colored or unusually shaped to attract pollinators.
- The **leaf** is usually a green and flat organ that represents the most prominent feature of most vegetative plants.
- Leaves use light to make food (photosynthesis), but petals generally don't.



# MODIFIED LEAVES

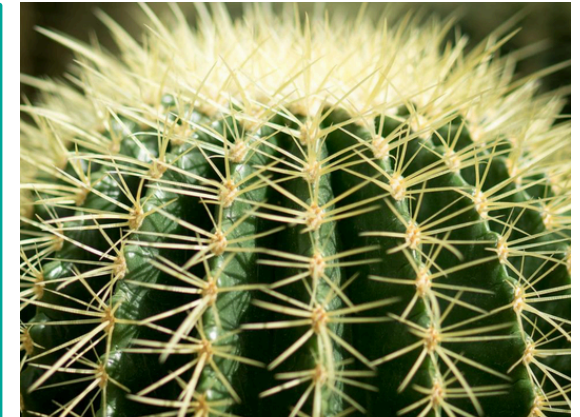
***Some plants have leaves that have been modified to do jobs besides photosynthesis. Here are some examples:***



**Bracts:** In the case of Bougainvillea, the flowers are small and cream-colored and found in the middle of three pink petal-like modified leaves known as bracts. Their main function is to attract pollinators.



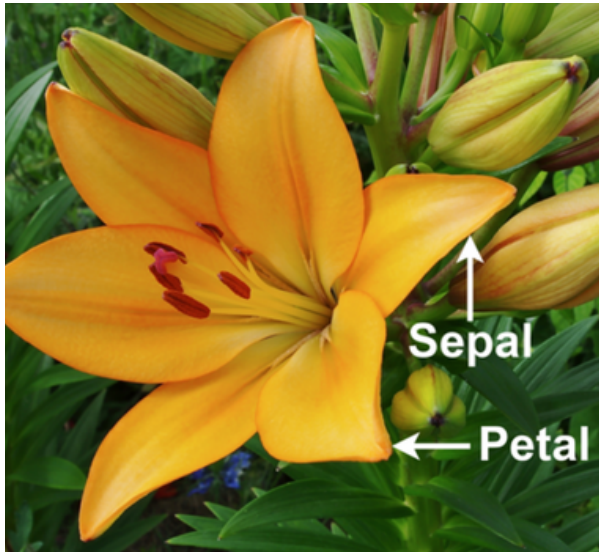
**Tendrils** are modified leaves used for climbing or support. For example, cucumber vines use tendrils to climb and serve as a support structure for the plant.



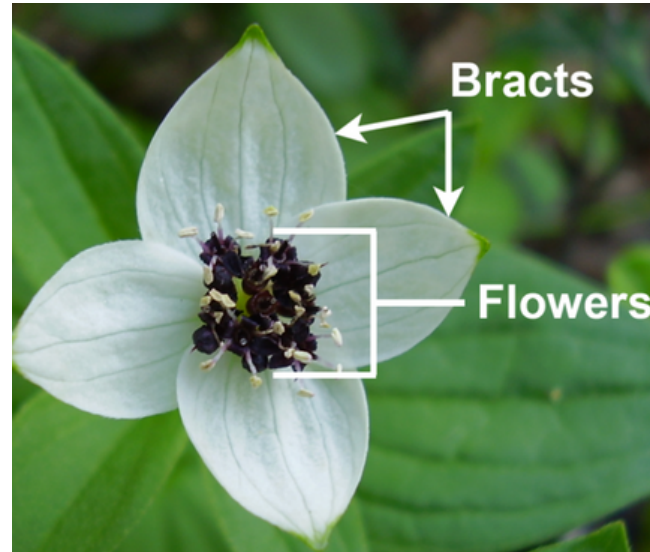
**Spines** are modified leaves used for protection against herbivores. They have also evolved as a water-saving strategy in some plants. Most cacti have spines instead of regular leaves



# THE OUTER PARTS OF A FLOWER (AKA PERIANTH)



A cultivated lily (*Lilium*) with sets of **3 petals** and **3 sepals**; these structures can also be called **tepals** due to their similarity.



A bunchberry with a group of flowers surrounded by four white **bracts** (modified leaves).



The **sepals** of this rose are the green, leafy-like exterior parts of a flower. They are modified leaves that protect the rose bud before it blooms and prevent it from drying out.

Sources: Wikimedia "Lys orange", "Cornus suecica", & Thero2017.wordpress.com/2020/05/24/know-your-roses-flowers-better/