

playbook

Flowers can talk

nature
biome

016 Express yourself with flowers!

Enter the amazing world of floral symbolism! This playbook will help you learn the language of flowers, even though this is a highly secret ancient art known only to a select group of the wisest people on Earth (not really). Follow the playbook for a controlled experience, or let your creativity take you places you've never been. After all, if you only have white roses, you can always paint them red. Or blue!

Flowers are both beautiful and meaningful. They represent emotions, contain memories, spark creativity, and bring us closer to nature. For the activities in this kit, you might want to use not only flowers but other natural objects like stones, branches, and tree bark.



Scan the QR code on the back cover to access the digital version of this playbook.

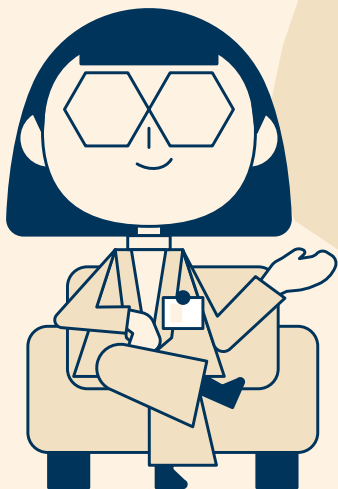
age

6-14



Warnings

Every playoddity kit is designed as a children's experience that is guided by an adult. All the described activities require adult supervision. Safety instructions for each item in the kit can be found on the item's individual packaging.



WARNING!
Choking hazard:
Small parts
Not for children
under 3 years

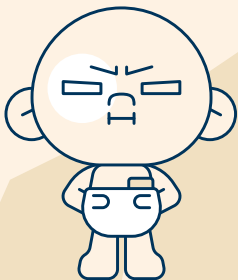


Adult supervision required





Hi, this is The Voice speaking. I'd like to remind you that the most important part of the playoddity experience is the child or children. Without them, you'll just be an adult playing games to avoid responsibilities. So put your phone away, and follow the instructions in this playbook for having a great time! The activities also work without the playbook, if you have your own ideas, but we suggest you have a look at ours first.



Without playbook



With playbook

Unboxing

Once you open the kit, the gentle art of ikebana — and the mysteries of floral arrangements and compositions — will unfold before you. True beauty needs to be photographed — share with #playoddity.



Each item in the kit has a colored sticker:

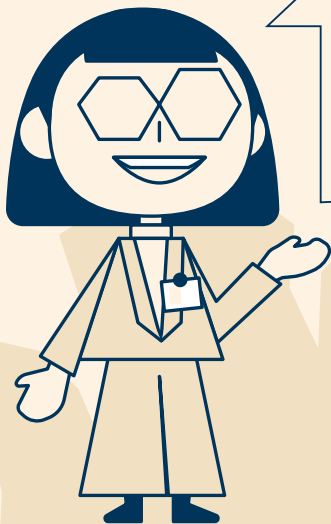
- Green sticker — item can be used by children and adults
- Red sticker — item should be used by adults only

If any items on the list are missing, or you have problems with any of the products, please get in touch.

Contents of this kit

- **01. Set of vases**
Several one-bedroom apartments for your future creations.
- **02. Vase-building set**
This is going to be a-vasing!
- **03. Kenzan**
It looks like a hedgehog, or a spiky frog — or a bouquet holder.
- **04. Mold for sweets**
Fancy some flower-shaped treats?
- **05. Set of frames**
Not all ikebana needs a vase, but each memory needs a frame.
- **06. Aroma sachet**
Beauty is in the air.
- **07. Decorative masks**
Express your unique character.
- **08. Book about flower arranging**
Let's look at some theory.
- **09. Notebook**
Make notes, sketch your future creations, or write down your ideas.
- **10. Paper note block**
It's hiding something special.
- **11. Acrylic markers**
For long-lasting designs.
- **12. Stencil**
All it needs is a suitable surface.
- **13. Vinyl stickers**
Add some flowers to everyday items.
- **14. Decorative sticky tape**
Fixes small mistakes, seals tiny cracks, or just adds beauty.
- **15. Magnifying glass**
Let's take a closer look.
- **16. Sticks**
The future stems of your flowers.
- **17. Thick paper**
The ultimate building material.
- **18. Tissue paper**
There's always space for some decoration.
- **19. Felt squares**
What are they gonna become?

- **20. Foam sheets**
Bend it, glue it, turn it into something special.
- **22. Insect pins**
Well, flowers do attract butterflies.
- **23. Storage case**
Keep your creativity in order.



Floriography is the language of flowers. It allows you to **create messages with blooms**, according to the way you **arrange** them. Throughout the centuries, different flowers have carried different meanings ...

Notes and ideas

Oh, enough with the boring stuff! It's driving me crazy! Hey, you wanna **learn a new language**? One that only your family can understand? OK, take a look at the kit. It has everything you need!

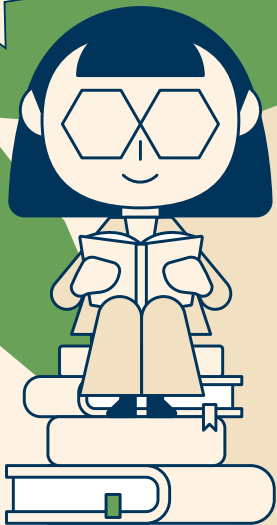
Floral thinking

So, let's think about **flowers**.

- How many flowers do you know the **names** of?
- What flowers do you **see** most often?
- What flowers do your family members **like**?
- What flowers and plants can be found growing in **your town or city**?

Write down your answers in a notebook. They'll help us to **start creating** a new language. And we start on the next page ...

It's not boring, YNK. It's called **history!** Flower language can seem simple, but different nations over the course of history had **different meanings** for specific flowers. In ancient Rome, white lilies were attributes of luxury and wealth — they even appeared on coins. Ancient Egyptians used white lilies as funeral flowers for young women. But in France — well, everyone just loves lilies. In the old crests of French royalty, you can see a shield with three lily flowers that symbolize mercy, justice, and compassion.



Flower meditation

Think of **different flowers** and their associations. Do they evoke **emotions** or **ideas**? Do roses make you feel loved? Maybe your ear starts to itch when you look at sunflowers? Or perhaps you go slightly mad when one thousand and one yellow daffodils begin to dance in front of you?

Let's begin!

Talk together about which flower you **associate** with each family member, and decide together on a flower that **represents** each person. Draw the flowers on the side of one of the vases from the kit, using the colored markers. This way, you'll start creating a **family flower portrait**.



Alchemists were the **magicians** of their time. They tried to understand the composition of minerals and the **effects** of different plants, and they were also deeply involved in **astrology**. In their notes on flowers and plants, they added the signs of the **planets**. For example, the flowers with white blossoms were marked with the sign of the Moon, the yellow blossoms with the Sun, and the blue ones with the planet Jupiter. That's the beginning of a **secret language**, don't you think?

I have to remind you that although it's possible to use **magic** to find out what your favorite flower is, that magic is illegal in all 50 states. That's why we didn't put any flowers in the kit. And after all, it's **you** who's creating a new language. Who are we to force specific words or whole sentences of the language upon you?



Now that you know which flower corresponds to each family member and what flowers can mean, it's time to **design your own** flower.



DIY flowers

The easiest way is to **draw** a flower on paper, color it, cut it out, and **glue** it to a wooden stem. But there are other options! You can cut the blossom out of **felt**, a **foam** sheet, or even a plastic **bottle**! The felt flowers can have multiple folded layers, sewn together; foam can be gently bent with the warmth of your hands and glued.

The most popular and recognizable flower is, of course, **a rose**! It's very easy to make one — all you need is **a paper napkin** and slight of hand. Unfold the napkin completely and lay it on the table. Fold over one edge about two inches (the size of the fold depends on the size of the napkin). This fold will become the edge of the rose petals. Now roll the napkin, but not too tightly. Create the flower by pinching the tube a couple of inches below the folded edge, where the paper is thicker, and carefully twisting. Continue twisting to form the stem. About halfway down the stem, pull up one layer of napkin from the bottom, forming a leaf, and then twist to the end. Now you have your **flower-words** ready. Time to put them into **sentences**!

Composition is key

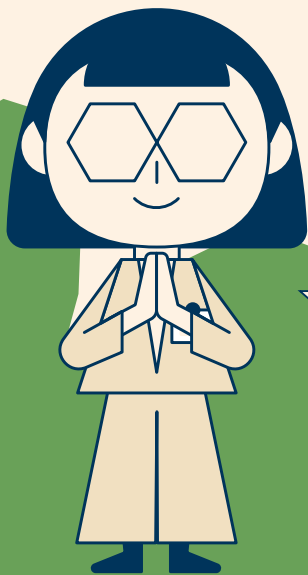
We'll now dip into the ancient art of **ikebana** — it will help you grasp the idea of **flower arranging**. Pay attention to the shape, outline, and lines of your arrangement. The trick here is to position it inside an **imaginary scalene triangle**. Try to draw it in the air, and put all your flowers **inside it**. You can cut the stems or bend the branches to fit!

1. Put the **kenzan** (the spiky frog) inside the vase, but don't place it in the center. Move it to the side a bit. There's **no symmetry** in nature.
2. The first flower, branch, or plant that you position should be **the biggest one**. It should be approximately twice the width or height of the container. This is called **the Subject**. Place it on the kenzan.

3. The second flower or a branch that you add to the composition should be only **one third** of the Subject's length. It's called **the Object**. Place it in such a way that it faces you and attracts attention.
4. And finally — the rest of the composition. It should be **completely random**. Have fun, and don't make it too symmetrical. Shape the stems, cut them, and create whatever you like.

What's the message?

If each flower is a word, what **phrase** does your arrangement **express**? If you can't think of the meaning right away, start with individual flowers and move "word by word," letting your **intuition** lead the way.



Find your inspiration

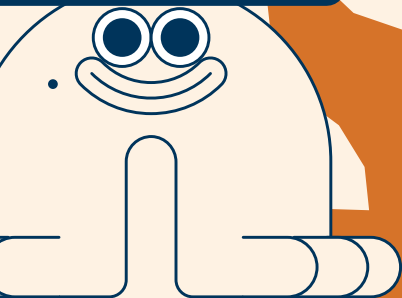
Congratulations on your **first composition**! That was just a warm-up, and now you're ready for the rest of the journey. **Walk around** your neighborhood or in the countryside, collect or buy the flowers and plants you like (**be careful**, some may be protected or even poisonous!) and create new **phrases** and whole **pictures** with them.

Another good rule in ikebana (and in the rest of your life too) is to **keep things simple**. Don't overwhelm the composition with a lot of unnecessary details, flowers, or branches. Keep it **minimal**.

All right, stop! Memory time!

You'll find some **frames** in the kit. They allow you to stop time and **freeze** beautiful moments. You can dry a flower and frame it, so you always remember the **event** the flower is connected with. And it doesn't have to be a forget-me-not!

Flowers? How about vegetables? They can **talk** too! And stones, pinecones, and human-made objects. They can all talk — you just need to **listen**!



Compose yourself

- Select four things you're **grateful** for, and show them in a composition of flowers.
- Express your **day** — or your **week** — in flowers.
- **Represent** yourself, your family, and your friends using flowers.
- Flowers tell **stories**. Tell the **history** of your family using them.


Mystery item


Ikebana is a **mysterious** and ancient art. It has many secrets yet to be uncovered. Maybe this item will help you **reveal** one of them?


Search terms


 flower that smells like chocolate	
why are flowers colored	
black bat flower	
Medellin flower festival	
American grown flowers	
origami flowers	
well dressing in England	
flowers in ancient Egypt	
digital flowers	
the Victorian language of flowers	
flower agriculture technology videos	

Question time

 What's your favorite flower?

 What flowers are in season at the moment?

 Do you know the season for your favorite flower?

 What's your favorite color? Why?

Creativity time

There's a flower for every letter of the alphabet. Can you make a list?

There's more
out back —
follow the
arrow!



If you lose this playbook in a basket of flowers, or it suddenly becomes a part of your latest ikebana — don't worry. You can always find the digital version online if you follow the QR code. And while you're on the website, check out our other kits. They're awesome!

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