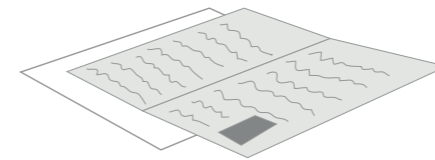


Flower pressing: Festival of Roses

Try your hand at preserving beautiful roses long after the blooms with this rose-pressing activity.

The Moroccan Festival of Roses takes place in early May each year. It is held in the Valley of the Roses, in the midst of the Atlas Mountains. Pink roses shoot up all over the landscape and the flowers are used to create rosewater oil, which is a well-used ingredient for making perfume. The festivities run for two days, in the Valley of the Roses' capital, El Kelaâ M'Gouna. You can take part in dancing, singing and even sword-fighting, and there's a 'Miss Roses' contest where women wear rose necklaces!

YOU WILL NEED



Paper or newspaper



Scissors



Bunch of roses



Several heavy books

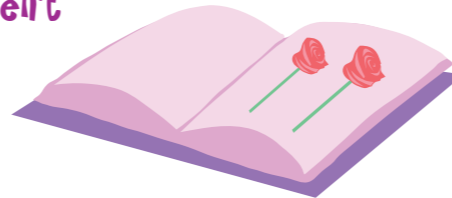
STEP 1

Choose the heaviest book you can find. A dictionary would be perfect! Ask an adult before selecting your book, as the pages could get slightly damp, and you don't want to damage something precious!



STEP 3

Place two pieces of paper or newspaper inside the book so as to protect the pages, then place the flowers on top of it, making sure that they aren't touching one another.



STEP 2

Cut the flower stems and remove the lower leaves and thorns. Make sure that they are short enough to fit in the book without poking out of the end.



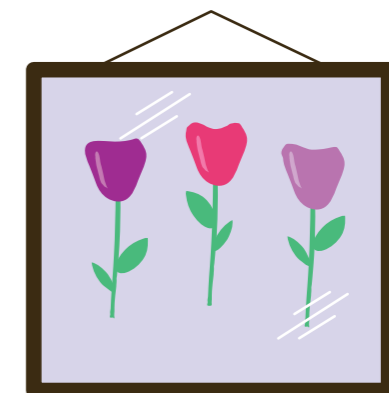
STEP 4

Close the book and press down, then place more heavy books on top of this one and leave to dry for one or two weeks.



STEP 5

Check on your flowers every few days, to see if they are dry. After a week or two, they'll be fully dry and ready to show off! Why not display them behind glass in a picture frame?



TOP TIP

Make sure to use fresh flowers. The best will be those that are buds or ones that have just bloomed.

DID YOU KNOW?
To make just one litre of rose oil, it takes 3000kg of petals!