

The Poinsettia

A. Color the flower by matching the numbers on the picture below.

1. Yellow
2. Red or Pink
3. Green

B. After coloring, draw a line from the color in A to the correct plant part name below:

- a. Bracts
- b. Leaves
- c. Flowers



The Poinsettia

Did you know?

- Poinsettias are one of the most popular plants grown in the United States.
- In Kentucky, some tobacco greenhouse operators have learned how to grow poinsettias.
- More than 60 varieties and 500,000 plants are grown and sold in Kentucky each year.
- Many FFA and 4-H groups sell them for fundraisers across Kentucky.
- They come in a variety of colors and sizes, red being the most traditional color.
- The poinsettia is not actually poisonous to people or pets, but is classified as non-edible.
- In their natural environment they can reach up to 10 feet tall.

History of the Poinsettia

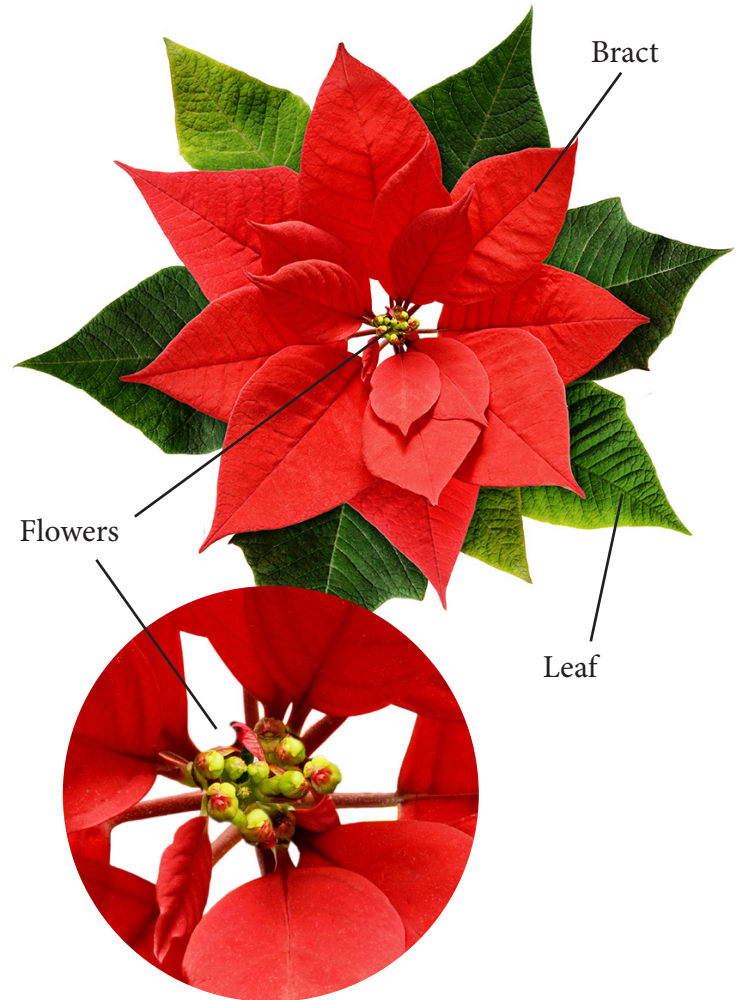
The poinsettia is named for Joel Robert Poinsett, an amateur botanist and the first United States ambassador to Mexico. He also became the war secretary under President Martin Van Buren, but most of us don't remember him for that. He was very interested in these native plants and in 1825 sent some back to his home in Greenville, S.C.

Poinsettias were used for medicinal purposes and dye by the Aztecs .

The connections with the holidays could have possibly began because missionaries to Mexico used them in nativity processions.

For more information:

- <https://hardin.ca.uky.edu/content/horticulture-news>
- <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/sites/www.uky.edu/ccd/files/poinsettia.pdf>



Parts of the Poinsettia:

LEAVES - Leaves help make food for the plant through photosynthesis. The leaves contain chlorophyll, the chemical that makes photosynthesis possible and gives leaves their green color.

BRACTS - Bracts are a special type of modified leaf that look like a flower since they may be a brighter color than the leaves. Their job is to help attract pollinators to the less noticeable flower of the plant.

FLOWERS - Surrounded by the bracts, the poinsettia's flowers resemble yellow beads. The flowers are where plant reproduction occurs and new seeds are formed.



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