



# Dandelion - a plant with many names

**The dandelion has many names.** This is because people give plants a name that describes an observation or property. Everyone sees something else.

By the way, the international language of plant experts is Latin. Having a common language is an advantage. This way plants can be distinctly named all over the world, which makes communication much easier and more reliable!



**In Latin, the language of plant experts, the common dandelion is called "Taraxacum officinale".**

The dandelion is a real generalist; you can find it almost anywhere. It loves nitrogen, which is why it is seen particularly often on nutrient-rich cow meadows.

**Plant experts are also called botanists!**

**Fill-in the gaps! Match the names to the sentences by inserting the correct numbers.**

(These are literal translations of different names that are used for Dandelion in German!)

**1 = Cow-Flower                      4 = Butter-Flower**

**2 = Lion's tooth                      5 = Blow-Flower**

**3 = Milk-Weed                      6 = Chain-Flower**

**The dandelion is also called...**

\_\_\_\_, because its flowers are as yellow as butter.

\_\_\_\_, because a white sap flows in the stems.

\_\_\_\_, because its leaves are jagged like the teeth of a lion.

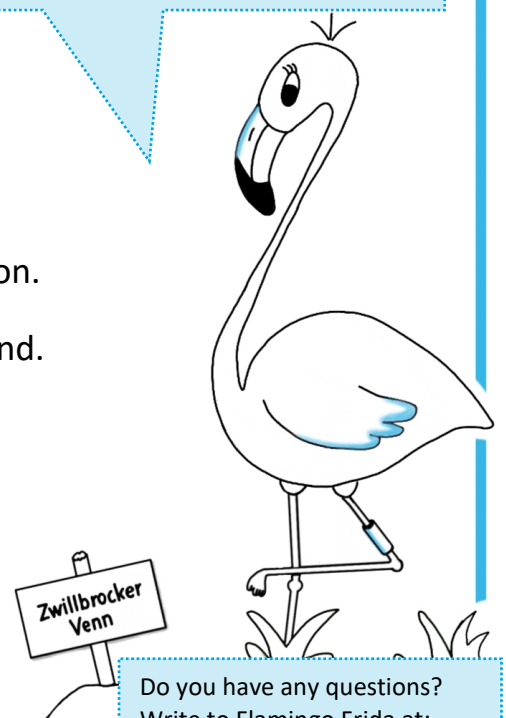
\_\_\_\_, because the ripe seeds are blown away by the wind.

\_\_\_\_, because you can weave chains out of it.

\_\_\_\_, because it grows on cow pastures.

**Question for professionals: What is the Latin name of the common dandelion?**

\_\_\_\_\_



Do you have any questions? Write to Flamingo Frida at: familie-forscht@bszwillbrock.de



# Dandelion

## Structure of the plant

The dandelion has many faces. You probably also know it with a fluffy blowball. When the seeds are ripe, they can be spread over long distances by the wind. In this way, it can quickly spread to new areas and does not even have to make an effort. The seed is ideally shaped for this!

Tick the correct answer. It looks like a:

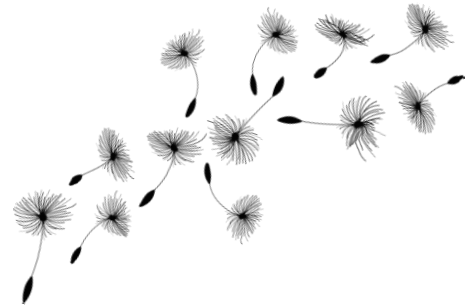
- wide plane
- little parachute
- pointy rocket

Use lines to connect the terms with the right parts of the plant in the picture. One term remains! Colour it yellow.

blossom                  leaves                  seeds  
 roots                      stem



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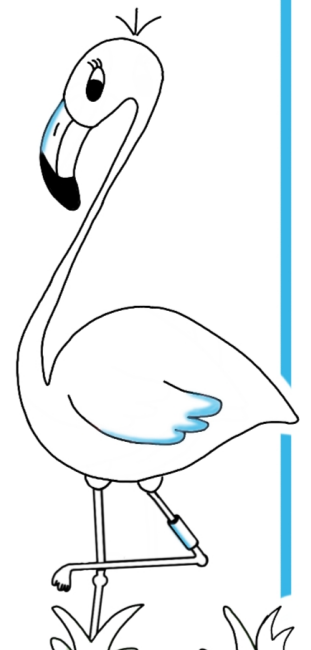


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The dandelion reacts to the weather and knows when the insects are asleep!

When it rains or is extremely dry and also at night the flowers close.

By doing so the flower is well protected.



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# Discover dandelions outside

The dandelion is a real generalist; you can find it almost anywhere. Go outside and find your dandelion!

### Make a drawing of your plant.

- Choose a pretty looking plant.
- Look closely at the plant and sketch it.
- Then label all parts of the dandelion, think of the following terms:

leaf                      blossom                      seeds  
                                  stem                      roots

Space for your drawing:

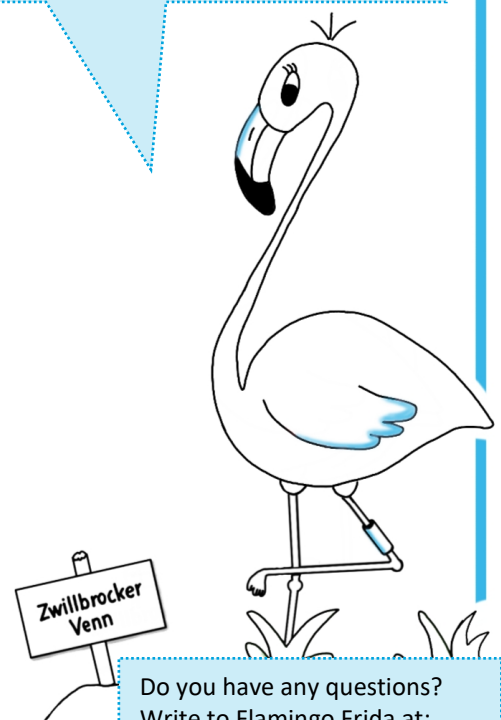


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Hi, I'm Frida Flamingo! Nice that you are researching too. You will need:

- pens and pencils for writing and drawing
- a ruler
- possibly a small shovel

Tip: The dandelion blooms from April to June! You will often find the yellow flowers and the white blowballs next to each other.



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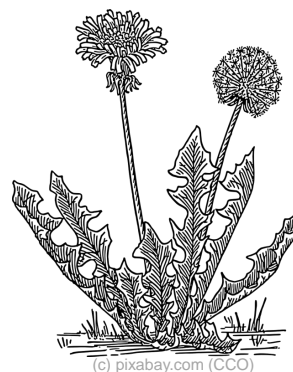


# The true size of the dandelion

Scientists want to know it exactly!  
How big is your dandelion?

Discover the true size of the dandelion.

- Carefully dig up a plant. Make sure to dig out the whole root.
- With the ruler you can measure how long the individual parts of the plant are.
- Enter the results into the list. Take the longest leaf and the largest flower.



The show „Sendung mit der Maus“ has a great film about the dandelion.

Documentary: „Löwenzahn – Pusteblume“

<https://kinder.wdr.de/tv/die-sendung-mit-der-maus/av/video-sachgeschichte-loewenzahn---pusteblume-100.html>

My dandelion is of this size:

Blossom: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Seed: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Stem: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Leaf: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Root: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Tip: When experimenting, follow general safety instructions!

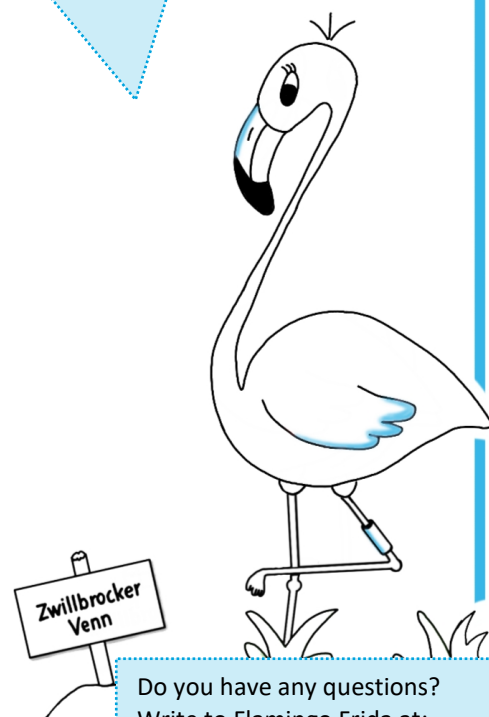


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