

## Thousands wait for foul smell of corpse flower

14th November 2024



People who like foul-smelling flowers were in luck this week. They had a chance to see and smell the world's smelliest plant, called the corpse flower. A corpse is a dead body. The flower gets its name because it smells like rotting flesh. The bloom attracted thousands of

visitors to the Geelong Botanic Garden, just south of Melbourne, Australia. The plant began blooming on Monday. More than five thousand people visited the garden to see it. Some people had to hold their nose when they were near the flower. Others coughed and held their breath because of the foul smell. Australia's Nine News channel reported that visitors described the smell as being like a dead mouse or rotting garbage.

The corpse flower is extremely rare. The plant is native to Indonesia. An international conservation group listed it as an endangered species. The group says there are only a few hundred of the plants left in the wild. A lot of the forest in which the plant grows has been cut down. Corporations are using the land to grow palm oil. The flower is one of the biggest in the world. It can grow to a height of three metres and live over 40 years. However, it blooms just once a decade and opens only for a day or two. The flower smells like the rotting flesh of a dead animal. This smell attracts beetles and flies. The insects pollinate the flower so it can bloom again.

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au) / [news.com.au](http://news.com.au)

### Writing

All countries should create more botanic gardens. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

foul smells / flowers / luck / visitors / gardens / holding one's nose / rotting garbage / rare / plant / conservation / endangered species / palm oil / beetles / flies / pollinate

### True / False

- 1) People who like bad-smelling flowers are lucky. T / F
- 2) The corpse flower is the world's smelliest flower. T / F
- 3) Fifteen thousand people waited to see the corpse flower. T / F
- 4) Someone said the corpse flower smelled like a dead mouse. T / F
- 5) There are thousands of corpse flowers growing in Indonesia. T / F
- 6) Forests where the corpse flower lives are being cut down for coconut oil. T / F
- 7) Corpse flowers can live for 40 years. T / F
- 8) The corpse flower attracts butterflies and dragonflies. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>foul</b>         | a. decaying    |
| 2. <b>chance</b>       | b. companies   |
| 3. <b>rotting</b>      | c. odour       |
| 4. <b>blooming</b>     | d. opportunity |
| 5. <b>smell</b>        | e. threatened  |
| 6. <b>extremely</b>    | f. disgusting  |
| 7. <b>endangered</b>   | g. ten years   |
| 8. <b>corporations</b> | h. flowering   |
| 9. <b>decade</b>       | i. lures       |
| 10. <b>attracts</b>    | j. very        |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the sweetest-smelling flowers?
- c) What can we do to help the corpse flower survive?
- d) What do you think of deforestation?
- e) What do you think of gardens?
- f) What are the world's most interesting flowers?
- g) What do you know about pollination?
- h) What questions would you like to ask an expert on the corpse flower?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. People who like foul-                      | a. rare               |
| 2. The flower gets its name because it smells | b. of the foul smell  |
| 3. The plant began                            | c. to grow palm oil   |
| 4. held their breath because                  | d. garbage            |
| 5. like a dead mouse or rotting               | e. and flies          |
| 6. The corpse flower is extremely             | f. like rotting flesh |
| 7. an endangered                              | g. a decade           |
| 8. Corporations are using the land            | h. blooming on Monday |
| 9. it blooms just once                        | i. species            |
| 10. This smell attracts beetles               | j. smelling flowers   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What are the worst smells in the world?
- What do you think of a foul-smelling flower?
- When was the last time you were in luck?
- What are your favourite flowers?
- Would you like to smell the corpse flower?
- What do you think of botanic gardens?
- When was the last time you held your breath?
- Would you like to study botany and be a botanist?

## Spelling

- the world's lestlsemi plant
- it smells like rotting ehlsf
- The bloom ttcardae thousands of visitors
- Others eghoudc and held their breath
- Australia's Nine News cnnahle
- like a dead mouse or rotting raggbea
- The corpse flower is emteylxre rare
- an endangered cpisese
- oorinoscatrp are using the land
- it blooms just once a eeccdad
- This smell trctasa beetles and flies
- The insects elliaotpn the flower

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. h	5. c
6. j	7. e	8. b	9. g	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Corpse Flowers

You think corpse flowers are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): lotus flowers, roses or dandelions.

### Role B – Lotus Flowers

You think lotus flowers are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why):: corpse flowers, roses or dandelions.

### Role C – Roses

You think roses are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why):: lotus flowers, corpse flowers or dandelions.

### Role D – Dandelions

You think dandelions are the best flowers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why):: lotus flowers, roses or corpse flowers.

## Speaking – Flowers

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| • Corpse flower | • Poppy    |
| • Lotus         | • Magnolia |
| • Dandelion     | • Orchid   |
| • Rose          | • Daisy    |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.