

Dandy... or not?

Many people think dandelions make lawns ugly. Dandelions crowd out grass and can damage sidewalks and pavements. But people long ago thought dandelions were dandy. They used them for medicines. They made fried **flower** blossoms and leafy salads. They boiled and fried **roots** and made roasted root tea. Some people still do!

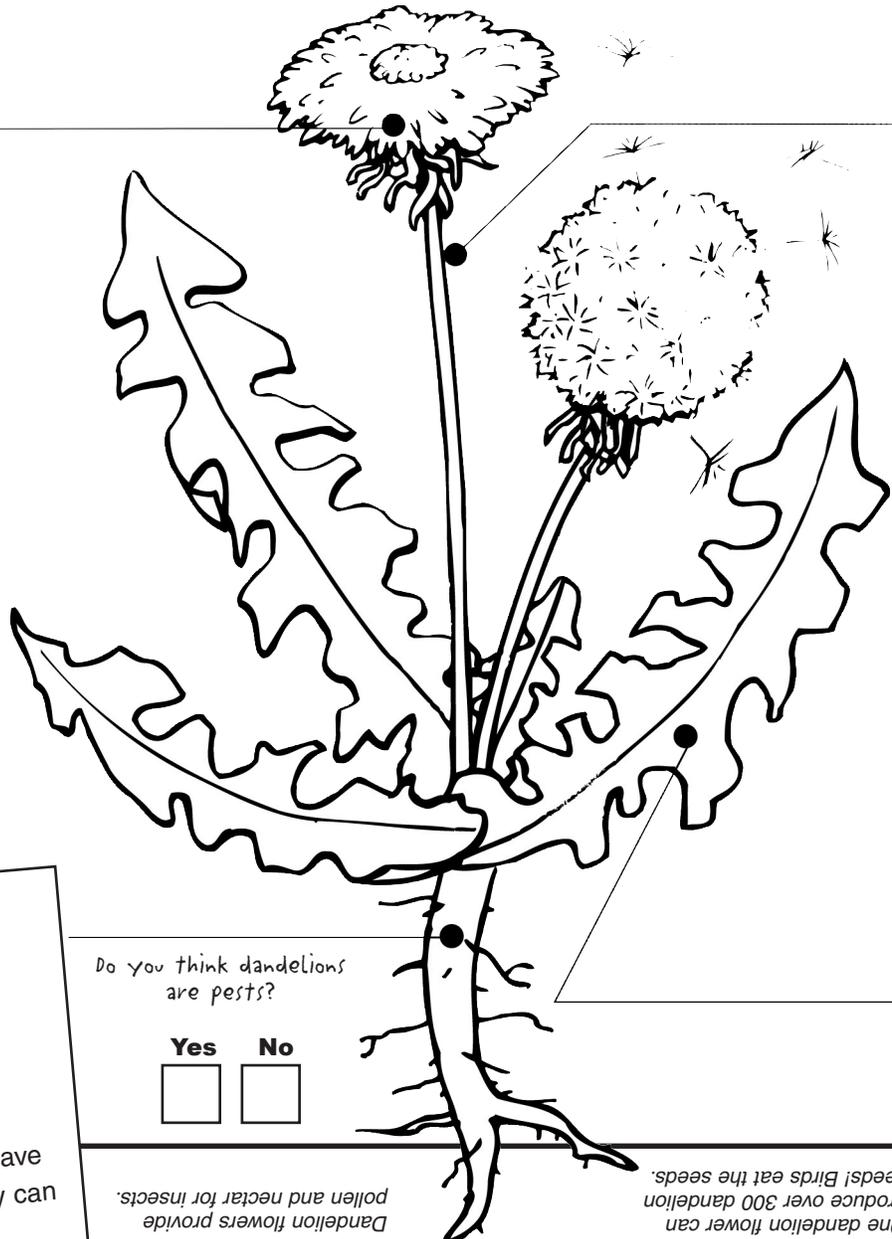


Color the dandelion. In the blanks, write the name of the plant part and possible uses for the part.

Dig THIS!

What can you do with dandelions?

- Make a bouquet.
- Make a dandelion chain. Pick several dandelions with long stems. Make a small slit in the dandelion stems. Poke the end of the **stem** from one dandelion through the slit on another dandelion. Repeat until you have a chain of dandelions.
- Tie-dye a t-shirt! The dandelion's yellow **flowers**, green **leaves**, and red **roots** can be used to make colorful dyes.



Do you think dandelions are pests?

Yes No

Dandelion flowers provide pollen and nectar for insects.

One dandelion flower can produce over 300 dandelion seeds! Birds eat the seeds.



Tip

Want to get rid of dandelions? Pull them out while they still have yellow flowers—**BEFORE** they can spread seeds.

Dandelion seeds are carried by the wind. They travel like tiny parachutes. A strong wind can carry a seed miles away from the parent plant (Science Museum of Minnesota). For more information go to <http://www.smm.org/sin/tf/d/dandelion/dandelion.html>

