



WADDES DON



Learning

Tulip Activity Pack

Hello! Welcome to your Tulip Activity Pack! Here you will find all sorts of fun activities and information about tulips.

Let's get started!



For further information
call the Education Team

01296 653262
www.waddesdon.org.uk



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Tulip Fact Sheet



The Netherlands is the world's largest commercial producer of tulips, with around three billion exported each year.

You can find tulips in almost any colour, except black or blue.

Tulips are native to central Asia and grow on mountainsides. They reached Europe in the 16th century.



The latin name for tulips *Tulipa* comes from the Persian word for 'turban'. That's because of the shape of the tulip bulb looks like a turban!

If you cut tulips, they will continue to grow in your vase for at least another inch.

1594 is considered the official date of tulips first blooming in Holland. They were planted in Leiden University's botanical garden by Flemish botanist Carolus Clusius.



Tulips only bloom for 3-7 days in the spring.

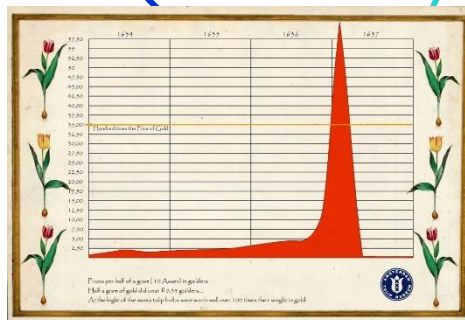
Tulips are part of the lily family.

The time period where the flower was so expensive (around 1634 to 1637) is now known as "Tulip Mania".

Tulips were once the most expensive flower and in the 1600s, they were said to cost 10 times more than a working man's average salary in the Netherlands. One bulb cost as much as a large house!



The tulip is the national flower of Turkey and Afghanistan.



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Tulip Patch at Waddesdon Manor

Here at Waddesdon Manor we have our very own Tulip Patch where some of you helped us plant tulip bulbs last October. Keep an eye on the Waddesdon Manor Learning Facebook page to see the progress of your bulbs!

Amongst the bulbs you planted, our gardeners also planted some tulip bulbs. However, these tulips look a little different to the type of tulips you planted or the ones you may buy in a florist or supermarket. Their botanical name is *Tulipa Turkestanica*, otherwise known as the Turkestan Tulip.

Have a look at the picture below, taken from our very own Tulip Patch. **What words could you use to describe the *Tulipa Turkestanica*?**



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Fancy eating a Tulip?

In 1944 during World War Two, Dutch people often had to resort to eating tulips due to food shortages. Tulip bulbs were promoted by Dutch food agencies in the Winter of 1944/45 as an alternative for potatoes.

The image below dates from 1941 and was published in *De Haagsche Post* (The Hague Post), a weekly magazine published in the Netherlands. In that year there was already a shortage of coffee beans.

The translation of the dialogue at the bottom of the picture reads:

The tourists: "Two coffee!"

*The waitress ('Mother Bulb'):
"Did you want coffee from
crocus, hyacinth or from real
tulips?"*

Can you spot the tulips and another feature which is commonly associated with the Netherlands in this image?



Did you know?

Tulip petals are also edible and can be used in place of onions.



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Tulip Varieties

There are over 150 species of tulips with over 3,000 different varieties. Let's learn about some of the differences.

Standard Tulips

- Characteristics: Bold solid colour and consistent bloom shape.
- Bloom colours: Solid and bi-colour (this means the tulip has two colours) varieties.
- Examples:



Parrot Tulips

- Characteristics: Multi-coloured and ruffled petals with relatively larger bloom size.
- Bloom colours: Various multi-colour shades.
- Examples:



Double Bloom Tulips

- Characteristics: Multiple layers of petals, often referred to as "peony tulips".
- Bloom colours: Solid and bi-colour varieties.
- Examples:



Fringed Tulips

- Characteristics: Fringed or "frilled" edged petals.
- Bloom colours: Solid and bi-colour varieties.
- Examples:



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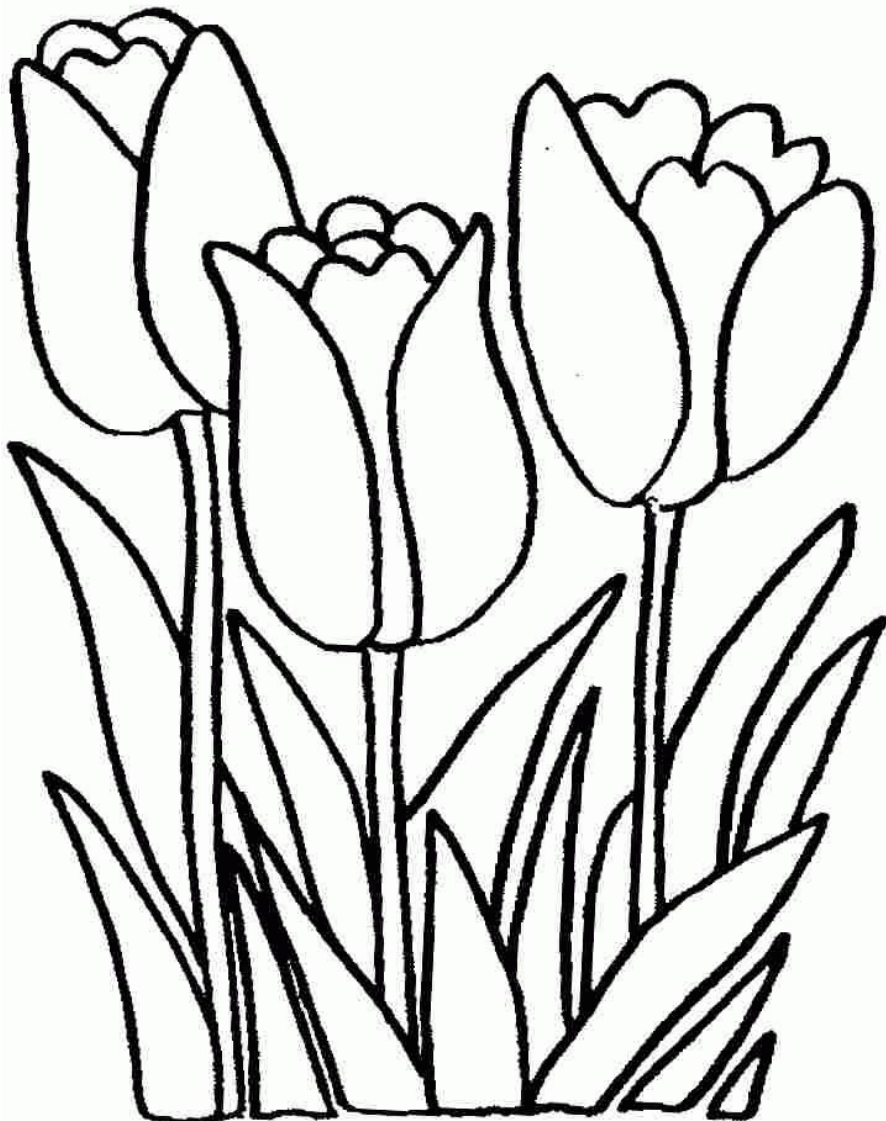
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Time to get creative!

Have a go at decorating your own tulips. You could colour them in or use tissue paper and make a collage. What ideas can you come up with? Don't forget to share your finished pictures on the Waddesdon Manor Learning Facebook page!



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