

FLORAL EPONYMS

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In a way, flowers talk, or at least 'communicate'. Their color and fragrance more or less 'speak' to animals: the daisy, for instance, by absorbing all ultraviolet light except at the tips of the petals, presents (from the point of view of the bee the flower is trying to attract) a lit-up airfield with a ring of tiny illuminations around the dark target on which the bee can zero in. Speaking of flowers, why don't you zero in on the names of these flowers, all derived from personal names? Tansy may come from Athanasia, but the ones in the quiz below are easier than that. See how many flower names derived from personal names you can get from these clues about the figures after whom the blooms were named.

1. Governor of Santo Domingo (1638-1710)
2. U.S. minister to Mexico (1799-1851)
3. Greek goddess of the rainbow
4. Moravian Jesuit missionary (1661-1706)
5. U.S. soldier and explorer (1813-1890)

6. German botanist (1501-1566)
7. English botanist (1737-1804)
8. French soldier, explorer, scientist (1729-1811)
9. Greek mythological character who spurned Echo and drowned
10. British colonial administrator (1781-1826)

11. French botanist (1638-1715)
12. Scottish naturalist, president of the Royal Society (1731-1790)
13. Daughter of Agamemnon offered as a sacrifice
14. German physician (-1876)
15. Flemish botanist (1538-1616)

16. U.S. soldier and explorer (1770-1838)
17. Swedish botanist (1751-1789)
18. German botanist and physician (1727-1759)
19. "Father of his Country" (1732-1799)
20. Famous kite-flyer and ambassador to France (1706-1790)

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.