



## Wildflower Exploration

### YOUR MISSION

To learn about the native wildflower **RED TRILLIUM**.

Plants often have lots of common names. Scientists give each plant one unique scientific name to be sure everyone is talking about the same plant. The scientific name for RED TRILLIUM is *Trillium erectum*.

### YOUR CLUES

Where to find it (habitat): You can find Red Trillium in the woods.

What the flowers look like: Red Trillium has 3 green sepals and 3 red petals. The pistil in the center is dark red.

What the leaves look like: This plant has 3 large leaves that grow in a whorl around the stem.

What you might find in spring: Look for a red flower that sits on a short flower stalk above its 3 leaves.

Interesting facts: Another common name for this wildflower is Wet-Dog Trillium because the flower smells like a wet dog. This stinking-smelling flower attracts flies and beetles that think the maroon colored petals are rotting meat. Insects get fooled again and again as they fly from flower to flower pollinating this plant. This wildflower has a perennial life cycle storing food underground in rhizomes.

### YOUR NOTES

List two facts below that you want to share about your plant.

Fact #1. I learned... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fact #2. I learned... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detectives learn by asking questions. Write one question below you would like to discover about your plant.

Something I would like to discover about my plant is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*You can email your question to our youth educator, Raylene Ludgate at [RGL3@cornell.edu](mailto:RGL3@cornell.edu)*

Use a wildflower field guide to answer the question below. In the index of the book, look up your plant under its name Trillium, Red.

**What is another common name listed for this plant?** Circle the correct answer:

Redwing

Wakerobin

Using the picture on our website or in wildflower guide, draw a picture of your plant below:

