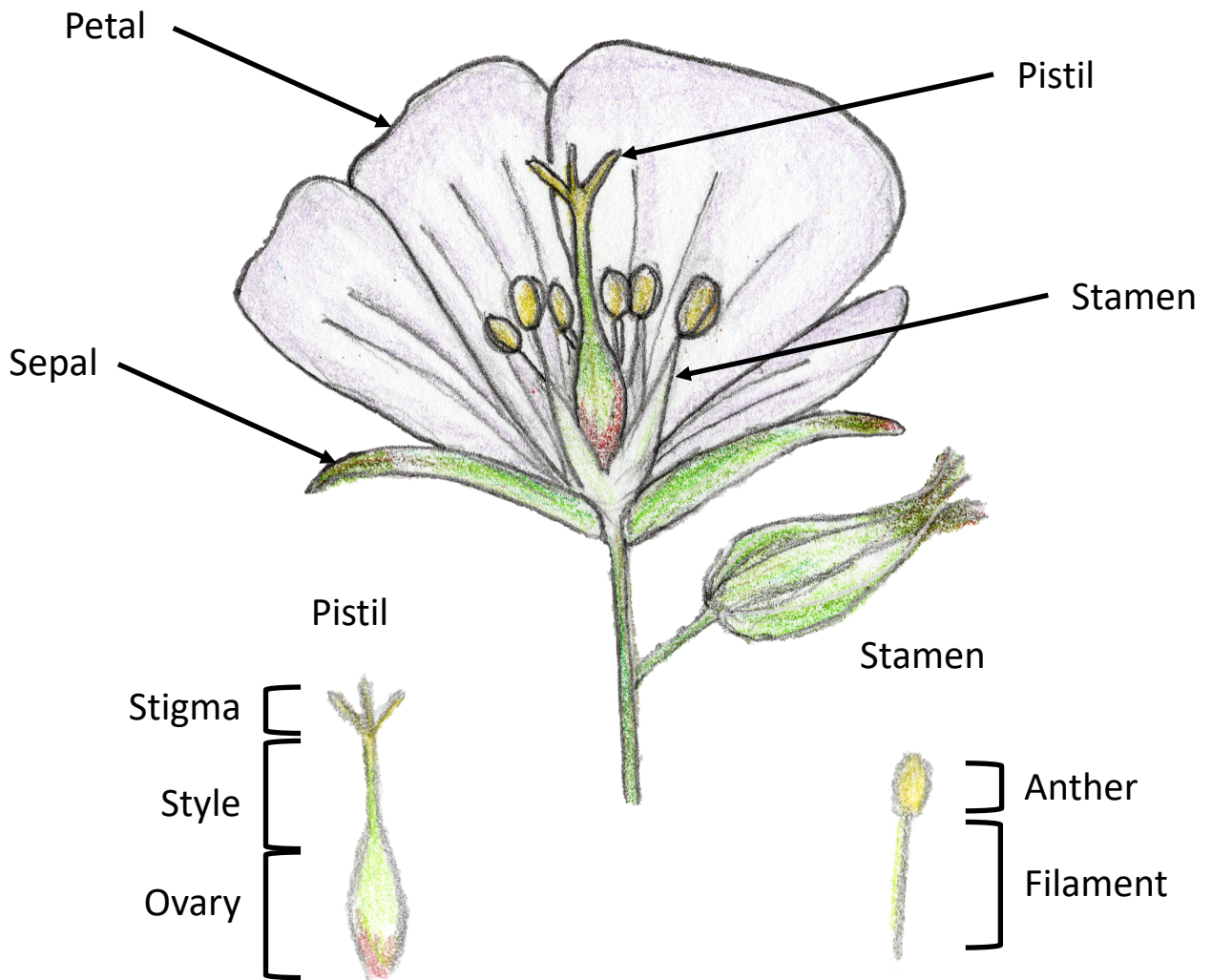


Parts of a Simple Flower

Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*

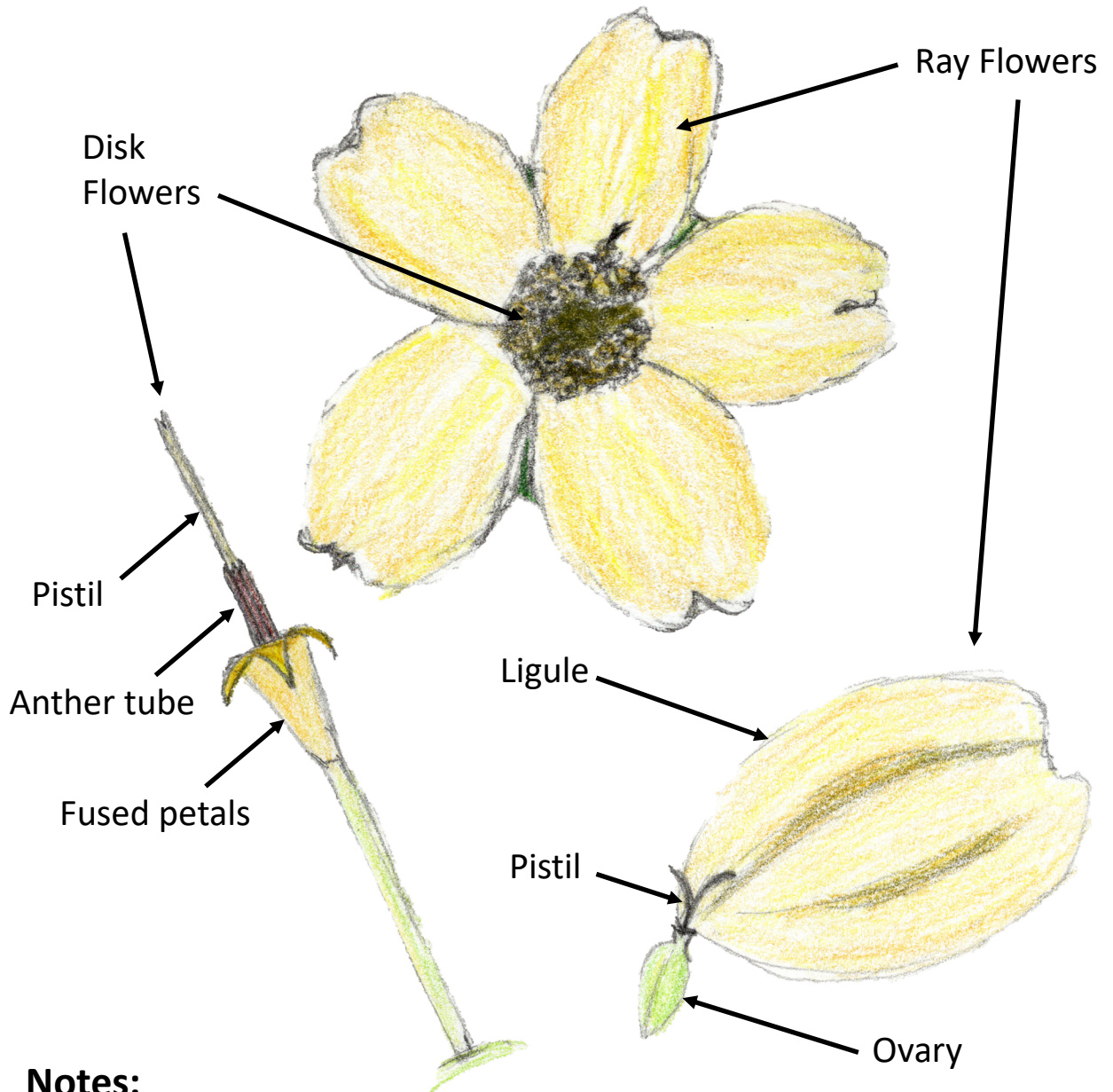


Definitions:

- Sepals* - The outermost part of the flower, often green but sometimes looking like petals, that usually enclose the flower bud before it opens.
- Petals* - The inner ring of the flower that tend to be brightly colored and often function to attract pollinators.
- Stamen* - The male part of the flower that serves to produce pollen; it is composed of the pollen-bearing *anther* and the stalk-like *filament*.
- Pistil* - The female part of the flower that typically consists of the *stigma* at the top which receives the pollen, the narrow *style*, and the *ovary* which contains *ovules* that will later develop into seeds.

Parts of a Composite Flower

Green and Gold, *Chrysogonum virginianum*



Notes:

Composite flowers can be made of all *ray flowers* that look like the petals of a "normal" flower (e.g. dandelions), all small knobby *disk flowers* (e.g. thistles), or both types (like this one, Green and Gold). The single petal on a ray flower is called a *ligule*. On both ray and disk flowers, the pollen-producing *anthers* are typically fused together into a tube; on a disk flower, the petals are also typically fused. The *pistil*, commonly with two curling lobes, emerges as each disk or ray flower matures. In Green and Gold, the ray flowers are lacking stamens (pistillate).