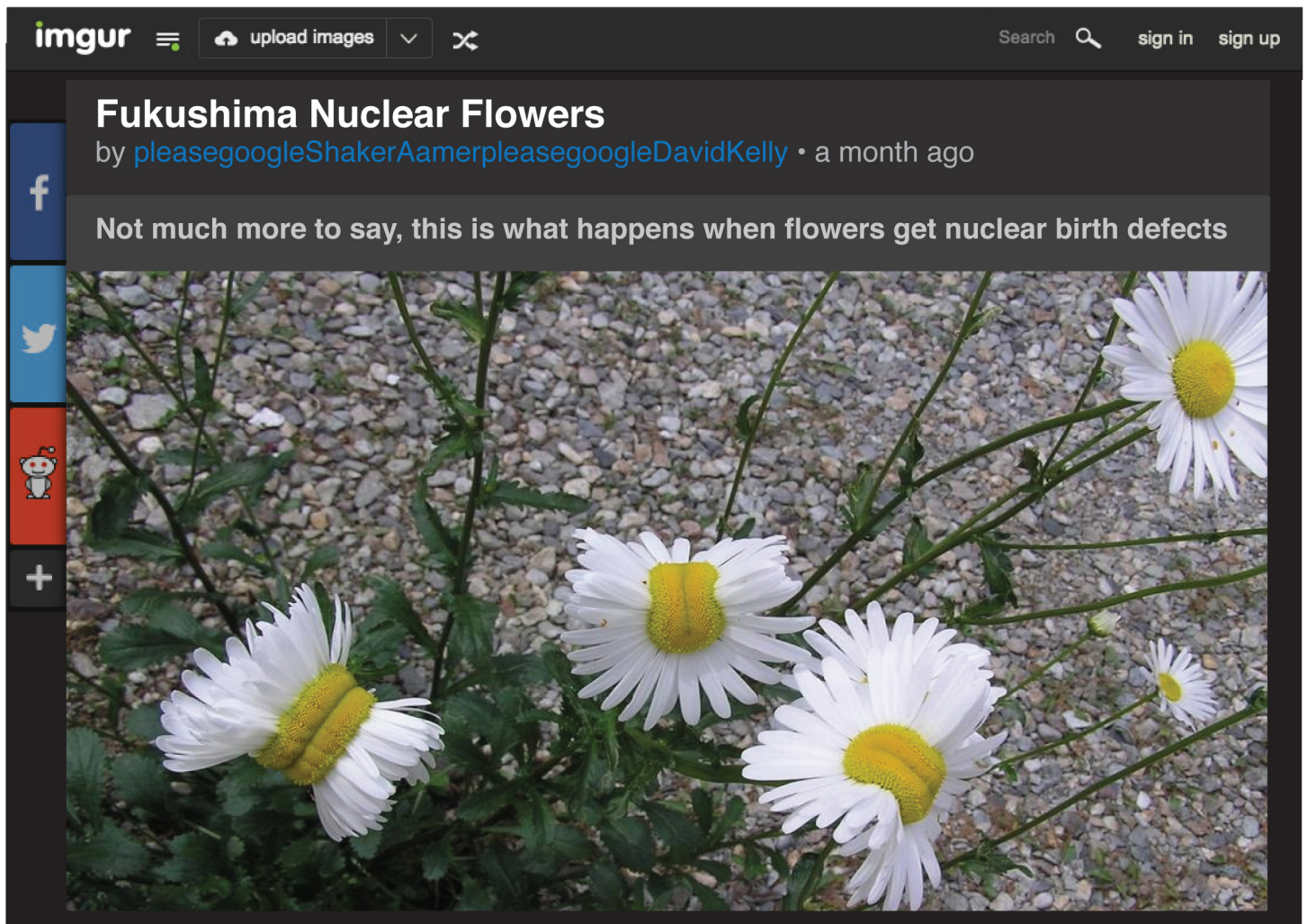


On March 11, 2011, there was a large nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. This image was posted on Imgur, a photo sharing website, in July 2015.



The image is a screenshot of an Imgur post. At the top, the Imgur logo is on the left, and 'upload images' with a dropdown arrow and a close icon are in the center. On the right, there are links for 'Search', 'sign in', and 'sign up'. The post title is 'Fukushima Nuclear Flowers' in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, the author is listed as 'pleasegoogleShakerAamerpleasegoogleDavidKelly' followed by '• a month ago'. A dark grey banner below the author text contains the text 'Not much more to say, this is what happens when flowers get nuclear birth defects' in white. The main image shows several white daisies with yellow centers growing from a gravelly ground. The daisies appear somewhat distorted or 'defective' in their shape. On the left side of the screenshot, there is a vertical sidebar with social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit, along with a plus sign for more options.

Does this post provide strong evidence about the conditions near the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant? Explain your reasoning. If you need more writing space, please continue your answer on the back of this sheet.

On March 11, 2011, there was a large nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. This image was posted on Imgur, a photo sharing website, in July 2015.

**KEY**



The image is a screenshot of an Imgur post. At the top, the Imgur logo and navigation options are visible. The post title is "Fukushima Nuclear Flowers" by a user with a long, repetitive username. The post content includes a caption and a photograph of several white daisies with yellow centers growing on a gravelly surface. The caption reads: "Not much more to say, this is what happens when flowers get nuclear birth defects".

Does this post provide strong evidence about the conditions near the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant? Explain your reasoning. If you need more writing space, please continue your answer on the back of this sheet.

A top-scoring answer will conclude that this post **DOES NOT** provide strong evidence about the conditions surrounding the power plant and will include all of the following reasons:

- While the image of the mutated flowers is alarming, there is no evidence proving that this photo was taken anywhere near the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant. Genetic mutations regularly occur in nature and this image could've been taken, literally, anywhere on our planet.
- Imgur is a photo sharing website with no regulation about what images are shared. Anyone could post anything here, so we should be suspicious about accepting this person's statement without much more research.
- The username is particularly strange, and it seems like a spammy approach to get us to Google different names. We should be suspect of anything being presented under such an odd username.
- A skilled user of Photoshop would be able to create a similar image without much trouble. With any odd-seeming image, we should doubt its authenticity until it has been verified by a reliable news source.