

Bee Magic! Pollination

SECOND GRADE

Nearly all of the fruit, vegetables, and grains that we eat every day grow because of a process called pollination. Pollen is a fine powder found inside flowering plants that must be shared for plants to reproduce. We rely on bees (and other creatures) to spread pollen from flower to flower, a process that is demonstrated in this activity.

SUBJECT

SCIENCE

TIME

30 - 45 MIN

MATERIALS

Read Aloud Book from the Garden Library

Magnifying lenses, 1 per student

Copy of Flower Template, 1 per student

Colored chalk, 1 per student

Cotton balls, 1 per student

Crayons of various colors, assortment to share

Clipboards, 1 per student



DIRECTIONS

- Take students on a walk through the garden and/or school grounds in search of flowering plants (summer/early fall and spring are best for this activity).
- Make stops along the way for students to observe the flowers with their magnifying lenses. Have them look at the center of the flowers and allow them to touch carefully. What did they observe? Did powder come off the flower onto their fingers? This is pollen. Pollen may not be present in every flower, but allowing students to explore the flowers will give them a frame of reference for the simulation activity.
- Return to a shady spot in the garden and read a book from the Garden Library. A book about pollination would work well with this activity.
- Introduce the activity by telling students that they are going to imagine that they are bees pollinating flowers. Ask for their ideas on how bees pollinate.
- Distribute flower templates, clipboards, and crayons. Using crayons, color in all of the flower petals on the flower template. **IMPORTANT: Leave the center of each flower blank.**
- Next, distribute chalk and cotton balls. Color in the center of each flower with chalk, pressing down hard to create a bit of dust. This represents the pollen.
- Then rub the center of each flower with the cotton ball, swishing all around the chalky center. This simulates pollen being picked up by bees.
- Then instruct students to repeat the previous step on the next flower, moving the cotton ball from flower to flower. Visit the chalk centers of each flower, then observe the cotton ball.
- Lead a class discussion and ask the following questions: What do you notice when you look at the cotton ball? How did the pollen (chalk) from the flowers get mixed together? How do bees spread pollen from one flower to another?

SOURCE

Adapted from:

- Young Naturalists Club | [What is Pollination?](#)



Flower Template

