
2nd Grade Activity: Pollination

Animals and plants are dependent on each other within their ecosystem.

(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas 2-LS2-2 –Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems)

Pre-Activity Questions

- What is pollination?
- What are the different ways pollination takes place?
- Why is pollination so important?

Activity

- Let's think about how plants make seeds. Pollen (male part) from one flower falls into another flower (female part) which allows it to create fruits and seeds.
- There are many ways for plants to be pollinated: wind, insects, animals and sometimes even humans play a role.
- Animals are the main way of pollination and have body parts that help plants reproduce.
 - **BEES** have hairs all over their bodies that help collect and deposit pollen as they travel from one flower to another.
 - Watch some [bees in action](#) as they pollinate.

Create your Own Bee and Flower!

Materials

- Cheetos (or similar)
- Cupcake liners
- Pollination Activity Sheet
- Pollination Flower
- Bee Activity Sheet on Cardstock (or sturdy paper)
- Pencils
- Markers
- Paper Towels
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Cut out your **bee template** and the holes for fingers.
2. Color multiple **flowers** and place them in different places around the room.
3. Fill the **cupcake liners** with **Cheetos** and place them in the middle of your flowers.
4. Eat the Cheetos with your fingers, making sure *not* to wipe or lick your fingers. The Cheeto dust will act as the pollen.

5. After all the Cheetos have been eaten, stick your fingers through the bee finger holes.
6. Let's be bees and pollinate some flowers! Go to as many flowers as you can in 2 minutes. Remember, you need to touch the flowers to pollinate them.
7. When done, wash your hands.

Post-Discussion Questions and Resources

- Which part of the activity represented a flower. Pollen? A pollinator?
- How is the cup of Cheetos alike or different from a flower?
- How are your fingers alike or different from a bee's body (pollinator)?
- What happened when you touched the different flowers? How alike or different is that from how pollen actually gets into a flower?
- Do you want to help pollinators? Join our [Pathways for Pollinators](#) team!
- Check out these great videos:
 - Video: [What's the Waggle Dance? And Why Do Honeybees Do It?](#)
 - Video: [How Do Honeybees Get Their Jobs?](#)
 - Video: [How Do Bees Make Honey?](#)