



Pollination

Grade Level: 2

Time: 45minutes

Materials: The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds by Joanne Cole, construction paper, tissue paper, ribbon, scissors, *Flower Model Plus*, finger puppet, and tape.

Introduction

This activity introduces the concept of pollination utilizing three different teaching methods :
Auditory 2) Visual and 3) Movement.

This activity will introduce the concept of pollination and sexual reproduction of flowers. Students will be able to answer the questions: 1) Why and how do insects pollinate flowers? 3) How do the flowers benefit from the pollinators

Activity

Reading

The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds by Joanne Cole

Model

Assemble the *Flower Plus Model* prior to class. Explain the process of pollination using a bee finger puppet or other pollinator. Physically demonstrate how the bee first is attracted to the petals and smell of the flower looking for nectar. Once the insect is on the flower its body rubs pollen onto its body. The bee then flies onto the next flower. (Fly away and onto the model again) Again the bee lands on the flower and its body rubs the pollen off onto the flower which eventually (show orange line leading to the ovary) fertilizes the egg within the flowers ovary. Explain how flowers are not able to reproduce with out the aide of insects while other plants rely on wind for sexual reproduction. For more detailed information refer to: *Model Plus Flowers Teachers Notes* located inside the Model Plus box.



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School Outreach Program

Botany Trunk

Activity Cont.

Movement

Please refer to the attached “Pollinator Puppet Show” activity sheet put out by Junior Master Gardener’s Teacher Guide.

Pollination Game

Split your class in half.

One half will be the **pollen producers** or **flowers** and the other half will be the **pollen’s transportation** or **insects**.

Flowers: Supply the flower group with various paper, tissue paper, ribbon etc. Tell them they have exactly 5 minutes to make themselves stand out. A pollinator is usually attracted to showy and fragrant plants. The showier the students can be the more likely an insect will land on their petals and collect pollen in the process.

Insects: Each insect will cut out 5-10 circles. Each student should choose a different colored paper. When they are done cutting their circles have them make a tape loop on the back of each circle. Students have 5 minutes to complete this task. You may need to demonstrate how to create a tape loop. When the insects have finished making the pollen; have them attach their pollen to a flowers shirt or pants. Each flower should now have his/her own color of pollen.

Your class is now ready to begin the game!

- Ask the students assigned to be flowers to create a large circle.
- Space student at an arms length.
- Insects are now ready to buzz around (prompt students to actually “buzz”) and pick up pollen.
- Insects can travel in and out of the flower circle.
- When they are close enough for a flower to reach, the flowers should stick a pollen grain on the insect.
- The insect now has a pollen grain on his/her body.
- The next time she/he passes a different flower the insect should stick that pollen grain on that flower.
- At the end of this activity each flower should have a variety of colored pollen grains on his/her shirt.

Conclusion

Students should have a firm grasp on the following concepts:

1. How insects pollinate flowers
2. Why insects pollinate flowers
3. How the flowers benefit from the pollinators