Flower Power Pollination

To enhance children's comprehension of the pollination process. Children will engage in a hands on representation of pollen sticking to bees fuzzy legs as they visit multiple flowers.

Directions

1. Read *These Bees Count.* Discuss what happens when a pollinator, like the bees, visits a flower and drinks the nectar. (**Answer**: Pollen sticks to their fuzzy legs and some falls off when they visit a different flower. This is how the flowers are pollinated).

2. Explain to the students that they are going to create a bee that visits different flowers and they will see how the pollen is "collected" and transferred.

3. Give students a bee template to color and cut out.

4. Hand out a cotton ball to each student and have them glue their bee to one side of the cotton ball.

5. Allow students time to color their flowers. Instruct them to leave the centers blank.

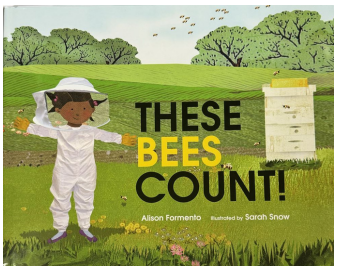
6. Place 3-5 different colors of chalk at tables. Students will color the center of each flower with a different color chalk.

7. Model for students how to "fly" their bee to a flower and gently land in the "pollen." Then they fly to another flower and observe what happens when they land in another color "pollen." Discuss as a group.

Supplies

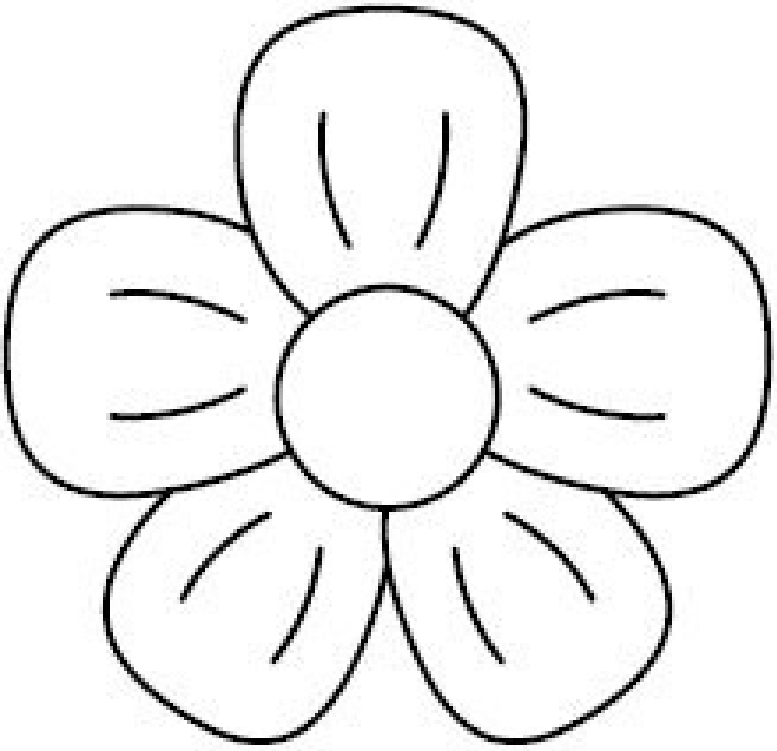
- Cotton balls (one per child)
- Chalk (Various colors; not pastels)
- Flower template
- Bee template (one per child)
- Crayons , colored pencils or markers
- Liquid glue

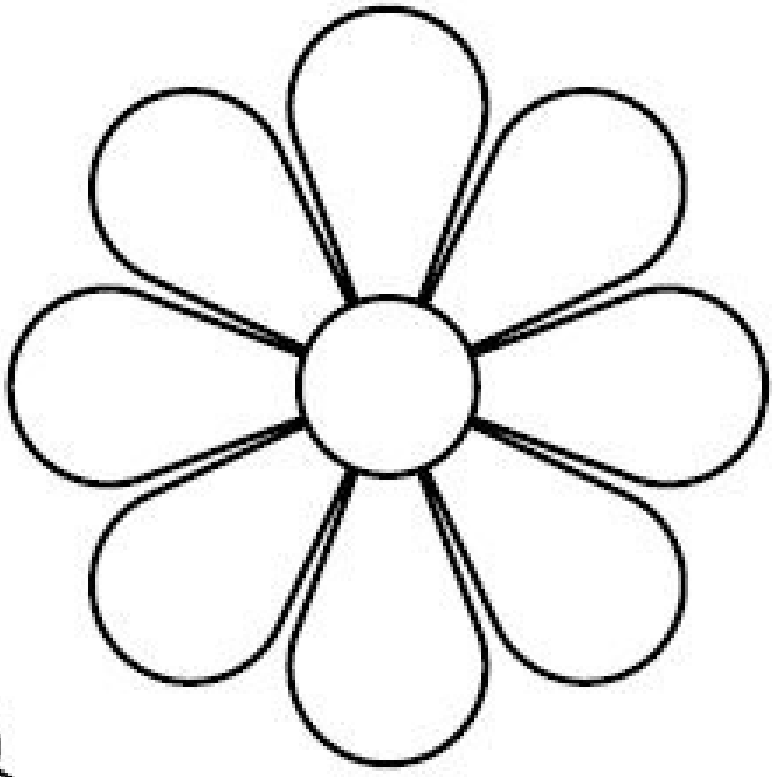
Suggested Books

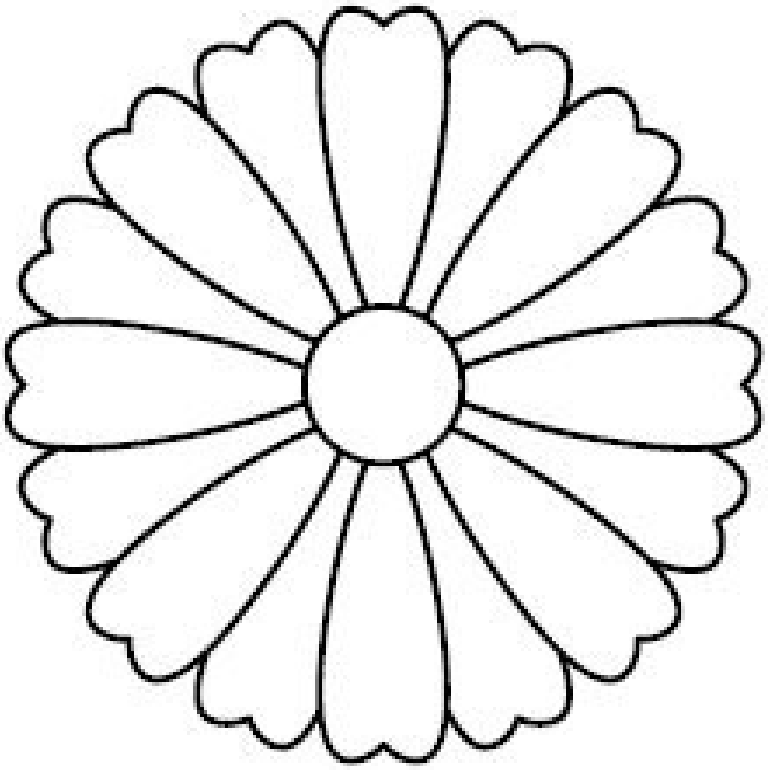


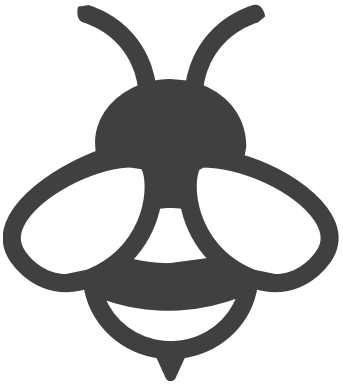
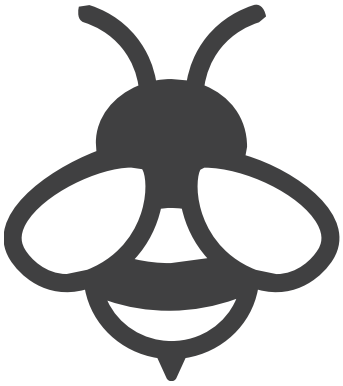
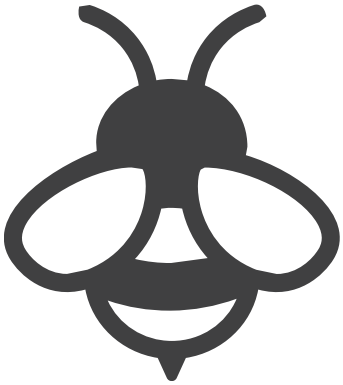
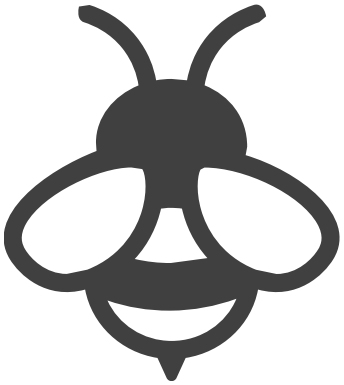
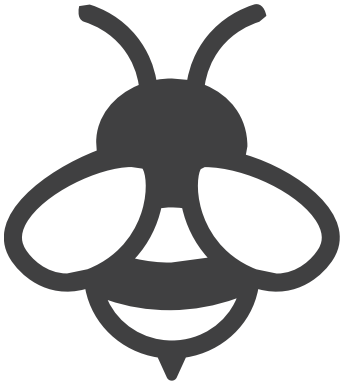
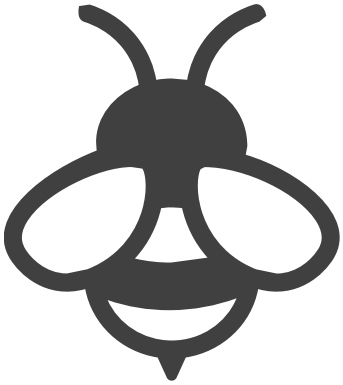
Extension Ideas:

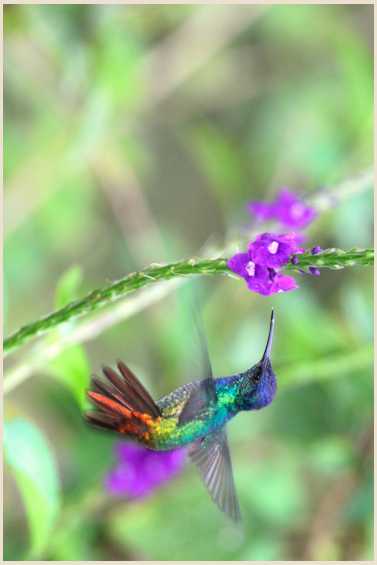
Ask students to name other pollinators besides bees. Use the pollinator matching cards to deepen their knowledge.









Honey Bee

Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar

Bat

Hummingbird

Beetle

Gray Hairstreak Butterfly

Visit flowers to get pollen or nectar for their food.

Sheds, or molts, its skin five times before the pupa stage.

Uses smell, sight, and echolocation to find flowers.

Fly up to 60 mph, wings beat 20-170 beats per second.

Largest group of pollinators and have been around for 200,000,000 years!

Before their final stage, they have been known to cause damage to certain crops in their caterpillar stage.

Answer Key

Visit flowers to get pollen or nectar for their food.

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Gray Hairstreak Butterfly

Almonds

Apples

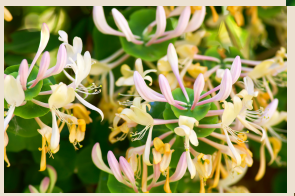
Milkweed

Avocado

Peaches

Figs

Blueberries



Honeysuckle

Salvia

Magnolia Tree

Spirea Shrub

Mallow plant

Alfalfa plant

ex. of legume

Answer Key

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Apples

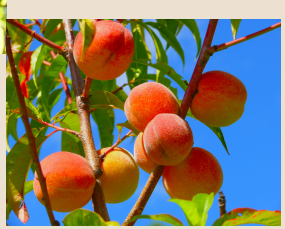
Honey Bee

Milkweed

Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar

Avocado

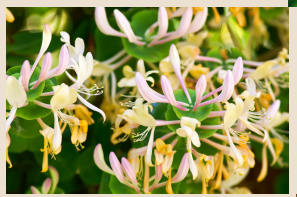
Peaches



Figs

Bat

Blueberries



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