Campbell Creek Science Center

Be a Pollinator Impersonator

To make fruits and seeds, plants need their pollen to move from one flower to another. Many plants have pollinators do the moving for them! In return, pollinators receive sugary food, called nectar, from the plant. In this game, learn ways pollinators are adapted to visit specific types of flowers.

Directions

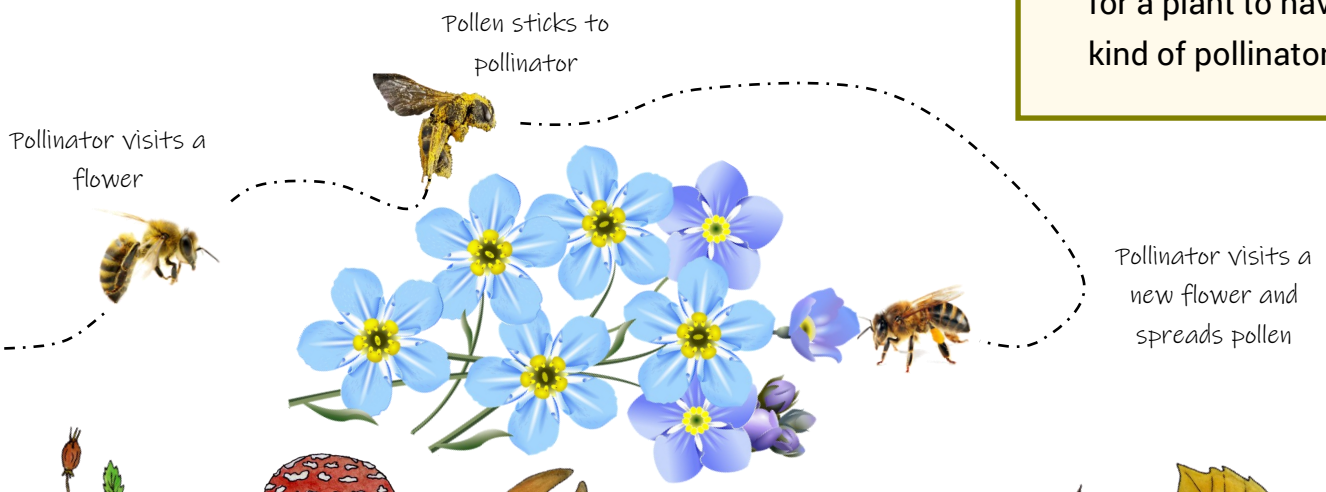
1. Begin as a bee pollinator. Read through the chart on **page 2** to find out the kinds of flowers bees like and the action you should do to mimic a bee collecting pollen from a flower.
2. When you are ready, start a 60 second timer and race to find flowers a bee would like. At each one, perform the "What to Do" action for a bee, then race to the next flower and repeat the action.
3. How many times can you perform the pollen collecting behavior before time is up? Record the number on page 2.
4. Repeat for each pollinator on the chart, visiting as many flowers as you can in 60 seconds. Which pollinator are you best at impersonating? Why do you think that is?

Materials

- Stopwatch or timer
- Outside area with various types of flowers (your yard, sidewalk, a nearby park)

Questions

- Why might it be beneficial for a plant to be pollinated by many different kinds of pollinators?
- Why might it be beneficial for a plant to have only one kind of pollinator?



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Pollinators and Their Flowers

Use this chart to impersonate different pollinators and keep track of your success. Learn which type of flowers a certain pollinator prefers and what action you will need to do to collect pollen.

Pollinator to Impersonate	Flowers to Find *Flower Preferences*	What to Do *Pollen Collecting Behavior*	Number of Flowers Visited
Bee 	Bright-colored flowers. Bees can see patterns on bright flowers that we cannot see, unless we shine an ultraviolet light on them.	Shake your whole body at each flower. Bees get covered in pollen as they travel from flower to flower. Some bees also collect pollen in special baskets on their legs and then feed it to their young.	
Mosquito 	Tiny, light-colored flowers that are the same size as mosquitoes.	Jump and spread your feet out wide to show off your legs, which is where pollen often sticks to mosquitoes.	
Hummingbird 	Long flowers shaped like tubes, especially red flowers.	Give yourself a long beak using your thumb and forefinger. Insert your "beak" into each tube-shaped flower you find. Pollen often sticks to the beaks of hummingbirds as they sip nectar from flowers.	
Butterfly 	Flat, broad flowers that provide space for the butterfly to land.	Stick out your tongue and rub your belly at each flower. Butterflies have long tongues to reach the nectar inside flowers. When they land on flowers to feed, they often pick up pollen on their bellies.	
Wind 	Most flowers, especially ones with few petals. Wind blows pollen from flower to flower.	Gently blow on each flower to mimic the wind carrying pollen between flowers.	

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