

FLOWER ACTIVITIES

FLOWER DISSECTION

A version of this activity will be done with the classes attending the Wildflower show.

Materials: newspaper or paper towel; large, simple flower, pencil and paper, hand lens (magnifying glass).

1. Spread newspaper or paper towel on your desk and place the flower on it.
2. Count the petals. Count the sepals. Count the stamens. Count the pistils.
3. Draw the flower, making it fill about half your paper.
4. Remove the petals from one side of the flower.
5. Draw your flower again, on the other half of our paper, showing the inside parts.
6. Remove a stamen. Look at it with your lens. Can you find the pollen?
7. Look at the end of the pistil with your lens. Touch it gently. Rub a stamen on the pistil. Look again with the lens.
8. With your fingernails split open the ovary (the fat base of the pistil). Can you see the potential seeds? How many?

POLLEN COLLECTION

Materials: Clear sticky tape (Scotch transparent tape), black construction paper, and large, simple flowers.

1. The "queen bee" has the tape and dispenses 2-inch pieces, one at a time, to the other children.
2. Each child touches the sticky side of his /her tape to the part of a flower where he /she thinks the pollen is located.
3. He/she then sticks the tape onto the black paper (Each child can have his own piece of paper, or the group may have one collectively).
4. The child then gets another piece of tape and follows steps 2 and 3 using another kind of flower.
5. Label the pollen samples with the flower names or names you invent if you don't know their proper names.
6. Look at the pollen samples with a microscope or a hand lens and compare them.
7. Each child could collect and add more pollen samples to create a pollen reference file.

FLOWER SURVEY

Materials: pencil and paper, hand lens.

1. Go for a "flower walk." Count something about flowers: How many kinds of each color you find; how many bee flowers, composites, or simple flowers (see Flower Type page).
2. Keep a tally on your paper.
3. Make a graph.
4. Calculate percentages.
5. Repeat the walk in a different place or later in the season; compare your results.

POLLINATOR ACTIVITY

Materials: a flowering bush or herb with lots of insect action, pencil and paper, hand lens.

1. In the warm part of the day scout for some flowers that have lots of insect activity
2. With the students, watch closely what the insects are doing.
3. Have the students answer these questions:
 - What kind of insects are there? (Make up names if you don't know the proper names. Have older students draw pictures and write descriptions to use later with a field guide.)
 - What is the insect doing there? Is it getting pollen, or nectar?
 - How long does it stay?
 - Where does it go next? Can you follow it?
 - Could you see pollen stuck on it?