

Pollen Grab



Objective

Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.



Equipment

- 12 Hoops (3 Red, 3 Blue, 3 Yellow, 3 Green)
- 32 Bean bags (8 Red, 8 Blue, 8 Yellow, 8 Green)



Preparation

- Set out the biggest possible square in the playground, field or sports hall, with ample room for all participants to move around safely at different speeds.



Instructions

- Divide the pupils into two different sized groups; one large (Bees), one small (Flowers) e.g. for a class of 30 children: **Group 1** (22 Children); **Group 2** (8 Children). Divide group 1 (Bees) into 4 smaller groups and sit these groups down in front 4 different coloured hoops at the edge of the playing area. Split group 2 (Flowers) into 4 smaller groups and ask them to take a coloured hoop and 4 corresponding bean bags and to find a space in the playing area away from other flowers and stand in their hoop. Inform each group of their group name i.e. Bees and Flowers.
- The Bee at the front of the line must run out to a flower and collect two pollen grains (bean bags) and return to their hive (hoop). They must deposit one bean bag and give the other to the next Bee who will then go to a different flower, deposit the bean bag and then collect two more. When returning to their hive, the Bees can only communicate with other Bees by buzzing, dancing and pointing.
- The Flowers are not allowed to leave their hoop or make noise, but they can wave their arms to attract the bees.
- The first game should be timed for around 2 - 3 minutes. After the first game, each Bee team will then count the number of pollen grains (bean bags) they have in their hive (hoop). Each Flower will count the pollen grains (bean bags) and their colours.
- After this game, you can change the roles of the children so they each have a chance to be a Bee or a Flower.
- At the end of each game, the Bees and the Flowers should have a number of different coloured bean bags. This will represent cross pollination amongst the flowers through the help of the Bees.



Other information

- For older children, mark some bean bags with a skull sticker or a black x. This could represent a pollen grain that has had pesticide used on it and could harm the bee or the whole hive.

