



How Pollinators Pollinate

Outdoor Classroom Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources: <https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-activity-pollinators/>

Students will investigate how pollinators (bees, birds, butterflies, bats etc.) help to transfer pollen from one plant to another or one flower to another.

Example Discussion Questions & Answers (online as a PowerPoint or PDF)

Q: Do all living things reproduce? Do ALL animals create baby animals? Do ALL plants create “baby” plants?

A: *Yes, because if they don't reproduce (make a “copy” or a “baby”), then their species will die and no longer exist.*

Q: How do plants reproduce? How do adult plants make “baby” plants?

A: *They create seeds. For example, the students may have had the chance to see the seeds of a dandelion plant when they blow the seeds in the wind.*

Q: How does a seed make a new plant?

A: *A seed contains the genetic material (information about “mom” & “dad”) along with “building instructions” to create a new “baby” plant that has the same traits & characteristics as the “parent” plants.*

Q: How does a plant create a new seed?

A: *A plant uses its flowers to create new seeds. For example, a sunflower plant has hundreds of tiny flowers on the “head” of the plant. Each of those tiny flowers can produce one seed, so one sunflower plant can create hundreds of seeds.*

Q: How does a flower create a seed?

A: *Plants require a male and female of the same species to create a seed, just like animals need a male and female to create a baby. The male and female parts are found in a plant's flower. The male part is called the stamen, and the female part is called a pistil.*

Q: Do all flowers have a stamen and a pistil?

A: *Some flowers have both a stamen AND a pistil, while other plants may only have stamens or only pistils.*

Q: How do the stamen and pistil create a seed?

A: *The stamen (the male part) produces pollen. Pollen is the yellow, sticky powder. Then the pollen is transferred to the pistil (female part) of the flower where it creates a seed.*

Q: How does the pollen move from the stamen to the pistil? Does the plant use its hands to move the pollen? Does the plant pull its roots out of the ground and walk around to give its pollen to other plants?

A: *No! Plants do not have arms or hands, and plants do not have feet and they cannot walk.*

Q: How does the pollen get from the stamen to the pistil?

A: *Plants use their flowers to attract animals like bees, butterflies and other insects to transfer pollen from plant to plant and flower to flower. This process is called pollination. The animals that help move the pollen are called pollinators.*

Q: How do the flowers attract the pollinators?

A: *The flowers have bright colors, smell good, and provide nectar to eat which tastes like honey.*

Q: How do the pollinators move the pollen from flower to flower?

A: *The pollen sticks to parts of the pollinator's body, and then the pollen is deposited on other flowers that the pollinators visit in search of nectar.*

Q: Where can we find pollen in the outdoor classroom?

A: *In flowers...flowers in the woods, on trees, in gardens, on vines, etc.*

Q: What types of pollinators could we find in the outdoor classroom?

A: *Beetles, bees, wasps, ants, butterflies, spiders, etc.*

