

Busy Bees, Busy Blooms

Activity Overview:

Guide: Adapted from *Project WILD K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide* (4th edition)

Suggested Grade: Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary

Setting: Indoors

Theme: Pollination, Adaptation, Ecological Relationships

Subject Areas: Science, Environmental Education

Adaptation Time: 50 minutes

Recommendations for Using this Activity:

- *Online Project WILD Professional Development for Educators:* Conduct synchronously using an online meeting platform with breakout rooms function.
- *Online Instruction for Students:* Conduct synchronously using an online meeting platform with breakout room function. Depending on the age of the students, it may be beneficial to include more detailed information within the educator Google Slides about flower structure, pollination, and pollinators. If using this activity with lower elementary students the pollination simulation can be done as a teacher-led whole group activity instead of dividing into small groups.

Additional Modified Use:

- *Completed Independently Asynchronously with Students:* If students are completing this activity asynchronously slides 1-4 may need to be adapted or added to, to include more information about pollinators and pollination so that students may review this on their own. The educator would share the instructions and Google Slides with students and have them complete the pollination simulation independently and submit their Busy Bees Flowers, Busy Bees Chart, and Busy Bees Reflection Questions to the educator.

Getting Ready:

Review the activity background material from the Project WILD Activity Guide.

Technology tools, set up and tutorials:

- Make a copy of the [Busy Bees, Busy Blooms Google Slides](#). See [Using Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides Tutorial](#) for instructions on how to make a copy.

Participant Materials: Participants will need the link to the educator's copy of the Busy Bee, Busy Blooms Google Slides with the link setting set to "Anyone with the link can edit."

Doing the Activity:

1. Introduction (estimated 10 minutes): In a live virtual setting with the students, complete steps 1 through 4 as written in the “Busy Bees, Busy Blooms” activity in *Project WILD K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide* (4th edition) using slides 1-4 in the Google Slides. (Estimated 10 Minutes)
2. Becoming a Pollinator (Estimated 10 Minutes): Tell students they are going to become pollinators. Referring to the directions on Google Slides 6-7, demonstrate for students how to become a pollinator, how they will pollinate and record their journey using Google Slides 8-9.
3. Pollinator Journey (Estimated 20 Minutes): After demonstrating the busy bees pollination simulation with students divide them into small groups and share with them a link to the copy of the Busy Bee, Busy Blooms Google Slides. Let students know that they will need to select one person to share their screen and map out their pollinator’s journey, one student to spin the spinner and roll the die and one student to record their pollination in the Busy Bees Chart. Also remind students that they will only have 10 minutes to do the pollination activity, so they will want one of their group members to be a timekeeper. Then put each group into their own breakout room. The small groups can now begin the busy bees pollination simulation by following the instructions on the Google Slides. Visit the breakout rooms to make sure that everyone is doing a job and also to remind the groups that once they have completed their pollinator journey, they should work together to answer the reflection questions for their group.
4. Wrapping Up (Estimated 10 Minutes) : Bring the whole group back together and discuss the small group reflection questions and any key takeaways they would like to share from their group discussion.

Getting Outdoors

Head outside to observe flowers and pollinator visitors. Have students draw and label pictures of what they see.

Keep safety in mind and follow guidelines for #ResponsibleRecreation. See <https://www.fishwildlife.org/responsible-recreation>.

Assessment: Use the small groups’ completed Google Slides for assessment.

Additional Options:

Virtual Field Trip: Students can view live pollinator/wildlife cams example: Live Honey Bee Cam <https://explore.org/livecams/honey-bees/honey-bee-landing-zone-cam>

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