



Exploring Pollinators

Research Objective: Data Collection

Description

Flowers come in many different colors and sizes, and these traits can influence which pollinators visit them. In this activity, you'll create a tissue paper flower, collect data about its color and diameter, and answer a Pollinator Question Card. Then, your classroom will become a flower garden! You'll act as a pollinator by visiting flowers that match statements you agree with and using stickers to "pollinate" them.

At the end of the activity, you'll tally the pollinator visits and look for patterns in the class data. What can your results tell you about which flower traits may be more attractive to pollinators?

Procedures

1. Look at the flower your instructor has prepared. Think about the different traits flowers can have, such as color and size, and how these traits might attract pollinators.
2. Select one color of tissue paper: red, yellow, purple, or blue. Record your chosen color.
3. Use the tissue paper and a green pipe cleaner to make your flower. The pipe cleaner will be the stem.
4. Use a ruler to measure the diameter of your flower. Measure across the widest part of the flower and record your measurement here: _____
5. Get the Pollinator Question Card that matches your flower color. Write your name on the back and answer the question.
6. Place the stem of your flower through the hole in the Pollinator Question Card so your flower and answer stay together.
7. Your instructor will collect, number, and arrange all of the flowers around the classroom. Take a moment to observe the different colors and sizes.
8. Become a pollinator! Visit each flower around the room and read the Pollinator Question Card attached to it. If you agree with the statement or answer, place a sticker on that flower. Continue until you have visited every flower.

Materials

- Tissue paper: red, yellow, purple, and blue
- Green pipe cleaners
- Rulers
- Hole punch
- Pollinator Question Cards
- Prepared example flower
- Small stickers
- Data sheet
- Pencils
- Scissors, if needed

Tips

- Punch a hole in the left side of each Pollinator Question Card before beginning the activity so the flower stem can be placed through it.
- Measure your flower across its widest point to get an accurate diameter, and record your measurement right away.



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Student Investigation

Collect Your Data

1. After the pollination activity, select at least **3** flowers of each color to study.
2. Record the total number of "pollinator visits."
3. For each flower, record its color, diameter, and number of pollinator visits.

Flower #	Flower Color	Flower Diameter (cm)	Pollinator Visits

Analyze Your Data

1. Which flower received the most pollinator visits? What do you think made its question or answer popular?
2. Which flower received the fewest pollinator visits? Why do you think fewer students agreed with its question or answer?
3. What patterns do you notice between the questions on the flowers and the number of pollinator visits they received?
4. If you were a scientist studying pollinators, what could this data tell you about the preferences of the pollinators in our investigation?
5. What is one conclusion you can make based on your data?