Centre For
Bee Education

Teaching Resource

POLLINATION TAG Game

Engage your students through play with the 'Pollination Tag Game'. Students will learn about the importance of bees for pollination of many fruits and vegetables through this fun and interactive whole class game. This game can be used as a brain break in the classroom or as part of an investigative unit about bees, pollination and food security.

How to Play?

Preparation: Print multiple sets of the 'Pollination Dependence Cards' to ensure there is a card for each student.

1. Players sit in a circle on chairs.
2. Either assign (or allow each player to choose) a fruit or vegetable from the pollination dependence cards.
3. Choose one person to be the 'Bee'. The 'Bee' starts in the middle of the circle and calls out a fruit or vegetable from the cards.
4. Everyone who is that fruit or vegetable must get out of their chair and find a different chair as quickly as they can. When students sit in their new chair, they must yell out the pollination dependence of their fruit or vegetable.
5. The 'Bee's' aim is to try and take one of the seats before the fruit or vegetable.
6. The fruit or vegetable who does not find a new seat becomes the new 'bee' for the next round.
7. Every five rounds, get students to swap their fruits or vegetables so they are exposed to the dependence of each.

Learning Outcomes

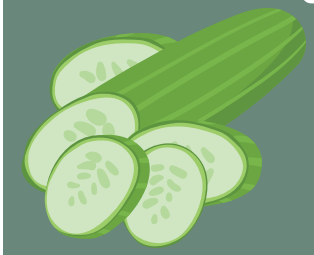
- Discover fruits and vegetables dependent on honey bees for pollination.
- Explore the importance of honey bees and pollination for food security.
- Understand the needs of living things; such as food, water and how they reproduce.
- Investigate the symbiotic relationship between bees, plants and humans, how each helps the others to survive.

What is Pollination?

Pollination is when pollen is transferred from the male parts of the flower (the anther) to the female part of the flower (the stigma). Pollen is made by the male organs of a plant (stamens in flowers and contains genetic information needed for plant reproduction). Pollen may be transferred to female organs on the same plant (self-pollination) or another plant of the same species (cross-pollination).

Apples are 100% dependent on bees to pollinate them

This means honey bees are critical for an apple tree to produce its fruit!



Cucumbers are 100% dependent on bees to pollinate them

This means honey bees are the most important pollinator for cucumber plants!

Pears are 100% dependent on bees to pollinate them

Depending on the variety of pears depends on which pollinators are most effective. Pollinators such as native bees, flies, and wasps are just as important as the honey bee.

Carrots are 100% dependent on bees to pollinate them

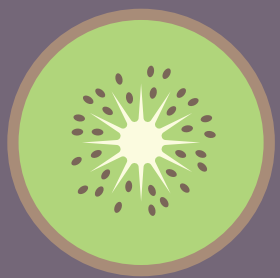
This means the more bees visit carrot plants, the more seeds are produced, and the more carrots grow!

Blueberries are 100% dependent on bees to pollinate them

Both honey bees and native Australian bees are crucial pollinators for the blueberry plant.

Oranges are 30% dependent on bees to pollinate them

Orange trees are a type of self-pollinating plant. They benefit from additional pollination from a pollinator such as a bee.



Kiwifruit are 80% dependent on bees to pollinate them

While the honey bee is crucial for a good production of kiwis, other pollinators such as native Australian bees, flies, and mosquitoes are also important.

Lemons are 30% dependent on bees to pollinate them

Lemons trees are a type of self-pollinating plant, meaning it does not need a pollinator to set seed and grow fruits. However, with additional pollination, a larger crop is likely to grow.