

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATION** *(7<sup>th</sup> Grade)*

### **ALABAMA COURSE OF STUDY STANDARD (Science)**

- ⇒ Use evidence and scientific reasoning to explain how characteristic animal behaviors (e.g., building nests to protect young from cold, herding to protect young from predators, attracting mates for breeding by producing special sounds and displaying colorful plumage, transferring pollen or seeds to create conditions for seed germination and growth) and specialized plant structures (e.g., flower brightness, nectar, and odor attracting birds that transfer pollen; hard outer shells on seeds providing protection prior to germination) affect the probability of successful reproduction of both animals and plants. [10]

### **DESCRIPTION**

- ⇒ Farmer Jerick and Farmer Kelly identify how bees help pollinate flowers and examine the role pollination plays in fertilization and reproduction of a plant.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to:

- ⇒ Define pollination.  
⇒ Identify how bees benefit from flowers and how they play a role in pollination.

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- ⇒ Paper and Writing Utensil  
⇒ [THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATION \(YouTube Link\)](#)

### **FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION**

After viewing the video, ask students the following questions:

- ⇒ How do flowers attract pollinators?  
⇒ How do bees benefit from flowers?  
⇒ What part of the flower gets stuck to bees?  
⇒ What is it called when pollen moves from one flower to another?  
⇒ How do flowers turn into seeds or fruit?



- ⇒ How do flowers rely on bees or other pollinators to reproduce?
- ⇒ What can we do to help bees survive and reproduce?

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. **Flower Hunt and Dissection:** Find and sketch two flowers near your home.
  - Answer the following questions:
    - *What color are the petals?*
    - *How big/small is the flower?*
    - *What color is the pollen?*
    - *Does it have a scent?*
    - *Are pollinators visiting the flower? How many?*
  - Compare and contrast the two flowers. *What characteristics were similar? What characteristics were different?*
  - Examine the pollinators you found near the flowers. Conduct research to identify them.
  - Reference the video to dissect the flowers. *Identify the petals, male parts of the flower, and female parts of the flower.*
2. **Create A Seed Ball:** Create your very own “seed ball” to promote environments that will continue to attract pollinators.
  - Follow the instructions below:
    - Form a clump of soil and clay into a ball.
    - Push in several flower seeds.
    - After the “last frost date” (you can search on Google for your area), toss into a sunny spot.
    - Wait patiently for your flowers to sprout... 😊
      - Once they do, you may need to give them a little extra water depending on how much it rains.
3. **Research Threats to Pollinators:** 35% of our world’s food supply relies on pollinators. Unfortunately, pollinator populations are declining.
  - Read the following [article](#) to determine the different threats that pollinators face.
  - What are ways you can combat these threats to pollination and our food supply?

