

## Why do plants grow flowers?

**Exploration** 31 min

**Hands-On Activity** 30 min

### Activity Prep

In this Mystery, students learn how and why flowers are pollinated. In the activity, Make a Flower, students make flower models out of paper and bee models out of pipe cleaners. Students fly their bees from flower to flower and observe what happens to the flower's pollen during this process.

Number of students:

Glue Sticks	<b>1 glue stick per pair</b>
Markers <i>Three different colors for each student and one of them should be green. Crayons or colored pencils also work.</i>	<b>3 markers per student</b>
Scissors	<b>1 pair per student</b>
Dixie Cups (3 oz)	<b>2 cups per group</b>
File Folder Labels (Stickers) <i>We prefer stickers because they are easier to distribute in a classroom. Tape also works.</i>	<b>1 label per student</b>
Pipe Cleaners	<b>3 pipe cleaners per student</b>
Pollen Variety 1 (Ex. Cinnamon) <i>Cornmeal will also work.</i>	<b>1 ounces per group</b>
Pollen Variety 2 (Ex. Ground Coffee) <i>Ground sage or ground dill will also</i>	<b>1 ounces per group</b>

work.

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**Make a Flower** printout

**1 per student**

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Prep Instructions



We suggest students work in pairs. Homeschool students can work on their own, but will need to make two flower models and may need a partner to help with a few steps of the activity.

### **Prepare “Pollen” Cups**

So they can observe that pollen is transferred from one flower to another, you will need to provide students with two different kinds of pollen. In half the cups, spoon about a tablespoon of one of the “pollen” types (e.g. cinnamon). In the other half of the cups, spoon about a tablespoon of the other “pollen” type (e.g. ground coffee). Groups of four students will be sharing two cups of “pollen.”

### **Classroom Management Tip**

To avoid distractions, we suggest waiting to distribute the “pollen” cups to students until Step 9 of the activity.