

Science- pollination and fertilisation role play

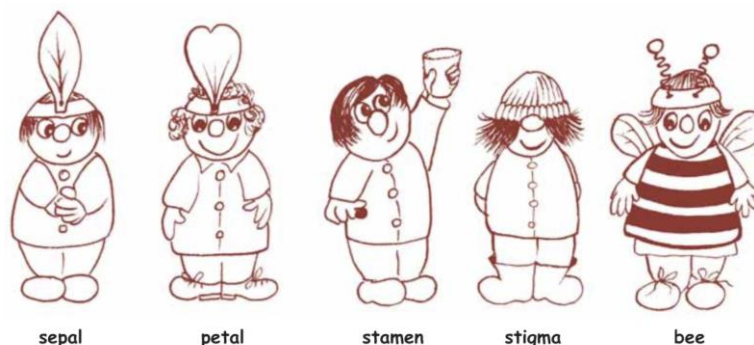
This activity lets you demonstrate pollination in the classroom through role play. You need various items to represent the different parts of a flower and you also need props for a bee.

Parts of a Flower (and Bee)	Suggested Materials
sepals and petals	cut sepal and petal shapes out of card and fix to clothing or a headband
stamens	a pot (to act as a holder for the pollen grains) – use any container e.g. ice cream tub, lemonade bottle, yoghurt pot
pollen grains	film pot lids, ping pong balls, card discs, paper balls, fuzzy balls – all of these can have self-adhesive Velcro hooks attached to them
stigma	a woolly hat on the head
bee	be imaginative! Ideas could include a headband with antennae or a stripy body (made from an old t-shirt or tabard material)

Instructions

You need two flowers and one bee. Adjust the number of flower parts according to the number of children in the class. For example, a flower with five sepals, five petals, five stamens and one stigma involves sixteen children.

The children dress up as the different flower parts using items as suggested in the table. They are then organised into groups to form two flowers. One child dresses up as a bee.



The activity

The bee visits the first flower making appropriate buzzing noises and collects pollen (by removing a pollen grain from the pot). It then 'flies' to the second flower, who is waving its petals to attract the bee. The bee deposits the pollen on the stigma (by brushing the velcro hooks against the woolly hat). This can be repeated several times with the children swapping the role they play. If you wish, at the beginning of the game both flowers can be in bud, i.e. with petals, stamens and stigma crouching down and the sepals bending over them. This helps the children to understand the protective role of the sepals.