



Pollinator Game

This is a fun game to get children thinking about how pollination works and its importance for plant reproduction. It can be played outdoors or indoors.

Equipment:

Sticky notes - 2/3 per child

Light balls that children can throw or roll to each other - 3-5 depending on number of children

Timing device



Instructions (Part 1)

Each person is an apple tree. The ball represents a pollinator.

1. Give each child 2 or 3 sticky notes and ask them to put their initials on each sticky one. This represents the pollen from their particular apple tree. They should then attach the sticky notes to themselves.
2. The ball is passed randomly between children. When the ball (pollinator) is passed to the pupil, they put their pollen (sticky note) on the ball and throw to someone else

The ball can pass to the same person more than once as each child has multiple sticky notes.

3. When the next person receives the ball they take a sticky note off the ball and put one of their own on.
4. Continue to see how many people get pollinated in 30 seconds.

Review question

Check how many plants were pollinated. Then ask the children to consider how the number might be increased.

Note: Remember that more pollination means more plant reproduction, which should ultimately lead to more biodiversity. Having a variety of pollen is also helpful as this means there is more variety in the new plants that are made. This make the species more able to evolve and survive.

Instructions (Part 2)

Repeat the game to explore the effect of different variations, some of which may have been prompted by the review:

What would happen if there were fewer or no pollinators (balls)?

What would happen if there were fewer flowers (children)?

What would happen if the pollinators and the flowers appeared out of sync at different times of the year?

What would happen if there were more than one or only one type of pollinator for a plant?

Extension activity:

Children could research unusual pollinators, such as bats, hummingbirds and even elephants!

