

POLLEN RELAY RACE

GRADES K-5

MATERIALS

- A large open space
- Hula hoops or buckets (flowers)
- Bean bags or small balls (pollen)
- Teams of students (bees)
- One hula hoop per team (nest)

DEFINITION

Pollen: The very fine, usually yellow, dust that is produced by a plant and that is carried to other plants of the same kind by wind or insects so that the plants can produce seeds.

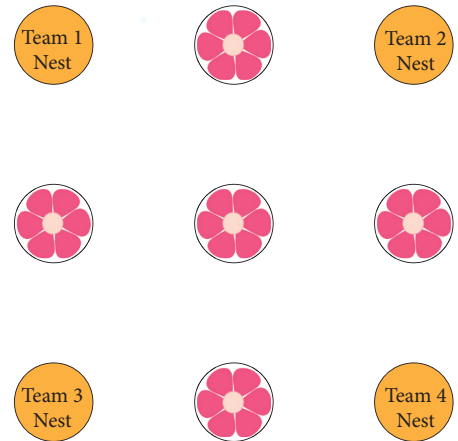
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Bees play a huge role in what we eat, pollinating the many vegetables and fruits we eat, and pollinating the food for the animals that we then consume. In fact, 1/3 of our food is dependent on bees. However, honey bees are disappearing globally at an alarming rate due to pesticides, parasites, disease and habitat loss. If bees disappear, what does that mean for us?

This activity will help students understand the connection between bees and plants with a fun relay race!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Split the students into teams of equal size and give each team a hula hoop (a nest –gold in diagram).
2. Place hula hoops containing bean bags/small balls around the room, ideally an equal distance from each team's nest. These represent the flowers which contain the pollen (pink flowers in diagram).
3. Each team has to run to a flower, collect a piece of pollen and bring it back to the nest. One student goes at a time and then high fives the next in line. Only one piece of pollen can be carried at a time. This is repeated until the pollen has run out.
4. The aim of the game is for each nest to collect as much pollen as possible. Once all the pollen is collected, the team with the most wins!



OPTIONAL

Instead of a relay race have all bees race for pollen. Remove one or more hula hoops (flowers) from the race area so that there are limited resources for the bees. For each bee (student) who doesn't find pollen, the student needs to stand off to the side. Discuss what happened to the bees and why afterward.

Adapted from: <https://bumblebeeconservation.org>