

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

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LESSON 15: HOW CAN WE SAVE BEES?

Key vocabulary:

bees, pollen, nectar, pollination

Resources:

internet access, video camera

LESSON SUMMARY:

In this lesson children will explore why bees are important and how we can help to protect them. By the end of this lesson the children will understand the important role that bees play in the reproductive cycle of plants and how we can help to encourage more bees into the area.

National curriculum links:

Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination

Working scientifically links:

Reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations

Learning intention:

To determine and explain why bees are important and how we can protect them

Success criteria:

- I can explain why bees are important for plant reproduction.
- I can give reasons why the bee population has decreased.
- I can give ways to encourage bees into an area.

Scientific enquiry type:

Using secondary sources of information

Health and safety: If you are going out to look for bees, check for children that have allergic reactions and take necessary precautions. Talk to the children about staying still and not aggravating the bees.

EXPLORE:

You may wish to show the children the film *Bee Movie* which will demonstrate the importance of bees for the reproduction of flowering plants. Alternatively you could show the trailer to the movie which is available online. Ask the children to think, pair share their ideas about how the bees benefit from the flowering plants and how the flowering plants benefit from the bees.

This would be an opportunity to go out and look for bees in an area where there are flowering plants. You can provide Resource sheet 1 for the children to identify any bees that they find. Ask them to look carefully to see if there is any pollen attached to the bee. Also encourage them to look closely at the flower that it was visiting.

Ask: How is the flower attracting the bee? Is it brightly coloured? Does it have a smell? Can you see any nectar? Where is the pollen?

Back in the classroom use Slideshow 1 so that the children are clear about what they need to research. This can be set up as a jigsaw activity. Put the children into groups of four. This is their presentation group. They then work with a partner in another group to carry out the research. Provide books or internet access. A good website to start is The Bumblebee Conservation Trust <http://bumblebeeconservation.org/about-us/>. Both children need to take notes of their research to take back to their original groups. They can then pool their learning to produce their presentation. The research pairs can be mixed ability.

ENQUIRE:

Tell the children that they will be presenting the information that they have researched in different ways.

Challenge 1 Children use a video camera to produce a television news report.

Provide children with a video camera and ask them to produce a television news report that explains why bees are important and what we can do to help.

Ask: Why are bees important? What can we do to help? Which flowers attract bees?

Key information:

It is important that children understand that the bees visit the different flowers to collect nectar which they use to make honey to feed on during the winter. Many flowering plants rely on insects such as bees for pollination. Whilst they visit a flower they also pick up pollen which they then carry to another flower in order for pollination to take place.

Challenge 2 Children produce an explanatory poster.

Ask these children to produce a poster that explains why bees are important and what we can do to help. Ask them to include some interesting facts to attract the reader's attention.

Ask: *Why are bees important? What can we do to help? What interesting facts have you learnt about bees?*

Challenge 3 Children produce an information leaflet.

Ask these children to produce an information leaflet about bees. In their leaflet they should include why bees are important and what we can do to help. Ask them to also include some interesting facts and some background information about bees, for example their life cycle and the roles of bees in a hive.

Ask: *Why are bees important? What can we do to help? What interesting facts have you learnt about bees? What is the life cycle of a bee? What are the roles of the bees in a hive?*

REFLECT AND REVIEW:

Allow time for the children to look at the presentations of other groups. Provide them with sticky notes so that they can leave a comment on the presentations that they look at. Ask them to write two things that they like about the presentation and a suggestion for improvement.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING:

Review children's news reports, posters or information leaflets.

Do the children understand the role the bee plays in the reproductive cycle of flowering plants? Do the children understand how the flowers benefit the bee? Can they explain ways in which flowers attract bees? Can the children explain why the bee population is decreasing? Can they give suggestions of how we can help to conserve bees? Can they give suggestion of plants that attract bees? Were they able to research relevant information? Were they able to present this information clearly?