

POLLEN NATION STEM TO-GO

DRIVING QUESTION: IS “ANYBOD-BEE” THERE?

North Carolina is blessed with a mild, temperate climate in which you can find plants blooming nearly all year. These flowers are the parents for the next generation of plants. In early Spring, yellow dust covers cars, sidewalks, and fills the air like a dust storm. This is **pollen**, which is mostly from pine trees and other plants who rely on the wind to carry around their genetic material. But many plants, especially the fruits we eat, cannot reproduce without the help of **pollinators** to carry the pollen from one plant to another. Of course, bees and butterflies are pollinators, but did you

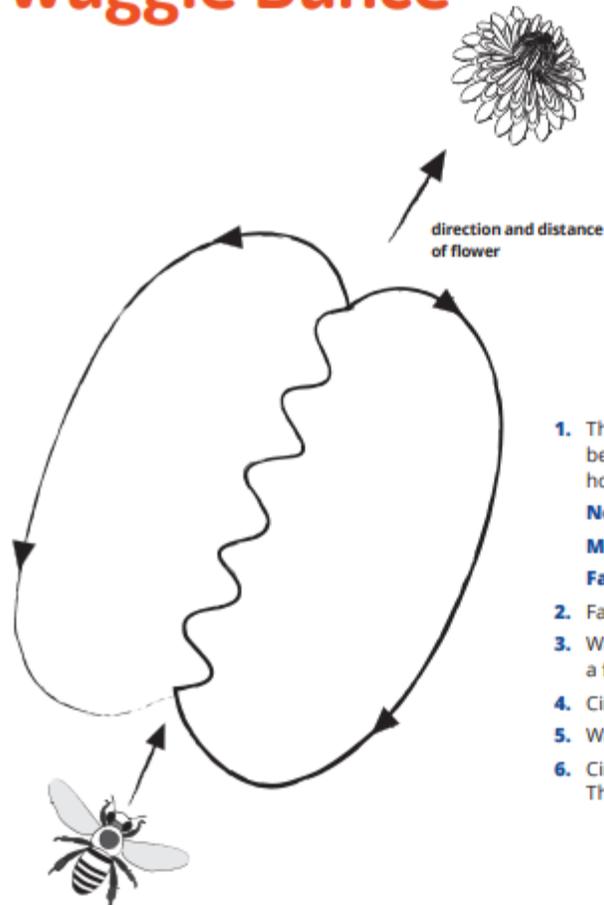
know that moths, flies, beetles, hummingbirds, bats, and even some spiders can be pollinators? **NOTE: BEE cautious and respectful. Don't try to touch bees or insects.*

handout

Doin' the Waggle Dance



Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding



1. The number of “waggles” tells the other bees how far the flowers are. Decide how far away the “flower” (ribbon) is:
Nearby: Do 1 waggle dance
Medium: Do 2 waggle dances
Far: Do 3 waggle dances
2. Face the direction of the flower.
3. Waggle your bottom while walking a few steps.
4. Circle to the right, back to start.
5. Waggle-walk again.
6. Circle to the left, back to start. That's one waggle dance!

Let's take a pollinator hike

Step 1: Find a friend. For this activity you need a partner. But you need to **BEE** quiet.

Step 2: Take turns finding a flower. One friend stays still while the other friend finds a flower. Once you find your flower, run back to your friend to “dance” the flower's location, but remember, don't use words!

Step 3: Dance like a bee. Bees tell each other where the flowers are by doing a Waggle Dance. You can Waggle, too!

Step 4: Send out the second “bee” friend to find a flower. Share the location using the Waggle Dance.

Step 5: Count your pollinator visitors. Without touching the flower, sit for five minutes and count the visitors to each flower.

Color of my flower	Number of Bees and Wasps	Butterflies and Moths	Beetles	Flies	Spiders

Think about it! Without disturbing or interacting with any of the insects, smell your flowers. How do you think color or scent impacts the types and numbers of pollinators?

Grocery Store Bee List

The next time you are at the grocery store, check out our list of foods that require pollinators. How many can you find?

- ALFALFA:** leafcutter bees and honey bees
- ALMOND:** honey bees
- ANISE:** honey bee
- APPLE:** honey bees, blue mason orchard bees
- APRICOT:** bees
- AVOCADO:** bees, flies, bats
- BANANA:** birds, fruit bats
- BLUEBERRY:** Over 115 kinds of bees, including bumblebees, mason bees, mining bees and leafcutter bees
- CARDAMOM:** honey bees, solitary bees
- CASHEW:** bees, moths, fruit bats
- CHERRY:** honey bees, Bumblebees, Solitary bees, flies
- CHOCOLATE:** midges (flies), stingless bees
- COCONUT:** insects and fruit bats
- COFFEE:** stingless bees, other bees or flies
- CORIANDER:** honey bees, solitary bees
- CRANBERRY:** Over 40 native bees, including bumble
- DAIRY PRODUCTS:** Dairy cows eat ALFALFA pollinated by leafcutter and honey bees
- FIG:** 800 kinds of fig wasps
- GRAPE:** bees
- GRAPEFRUIT:** bees
- KIWIFRUIT:** honey bees, bumblebees, solitary bees
- MACADAMIA NUT:** bees, beetles, wasps
- MANGO:** bees, flies, wasps
- MELON:** bees
- NUTMEG:** honey bees, bird
- PAPAYA:** moths, birds, bees
- PEACH:** bees
- PEAR:** honey bees, flies, mason bees
- PEPPERMINT:** flies, bees
- PUMPKIN:** squash and gourd bees, bumblebees
- RASPBERRY and BLACKBERRY:** honey bees, bumblebees, solitary bees, hover flies
- SESAME:** bees, flies, wasps
- STRAWBERRY:** bees
- SUGARCANE:** bees, thrips
- TEA PLANTS:** flies, bees and other insects
- TOMATO:** bumble bees
- VANILLA:** bees

Taken from:
<https://pollinator.org/list-of-pollinated-food>

