



Powerful Pollinators

NGSS Standards: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 1-ESS1-2, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1

Level: 1 & 2 grades

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:

1. Students will learn why insects are important in the ecosystem.
2. Students will discover 3 insect adaptations.
3. Students will learn one method of insect communication.
4. Students will understand how insects connect the food chain.

Materials:

- Lifecycle flip chart
- Flower model
- Bee Conservation kit
- Bee dance book
- Dress an Insect Bin

Pre-Activities:

https://www.agclassroom.org/ID/teacher/doc/materials/pollination_experiment.pdf

<https://oregonaitc.org/lessonplan/busy-bees/>

Procedure:

1. Students will get to dress a peer as an insect to learn about insect adaptations and anatomy. Insects have 3 body parts: head, thorax and abdomen, they have 6 legs, 2 antennae, compound eyes, wings, proboscis, corbiculae (bees pollen baskets), hamule (hooks)
2. Insects play several important roles in the ecosystem throughout their lifecycles. Using the lifecycle flip chart students will identify the egg, larva, pupa and adult stages (metamorphosis). Students will discuss the benefits of each stage and how they fit into the food chain.
3. Student will get to read the *Bee Dance* book to understand one of the many ways insects communicate with each other. Use the flower model to show location of pollen on flowers.
4. Students will review insect adaptations, lifecycles, and insect importance

Post-Activities & Resources:

1. Learn more about insect adaptations through the Invent an Insect activity.
<https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/invent-an-insect>
2. Science Life Cycles Flip Chart worksheets

<https://www.oregonbeeproject.org/>