




Activity 11 **Dancing Bees Survival Game**

Discover variety in shape, pattern, colour and form among flowering plants and the important role bees play in pollination and survival. Pupils work together to design a game using movement to communicate information like honeybees.

Curriculum area(s)	Resources needed	Preparatory activity
<p>Expressive Arts Art & design; drama.</p> <p>Science: Planet Earth biodiversity and interdependence.</p> <p>Social Studies people, place & environment.</p> <p>Mathematics Shape, position and movement.</p>	<p>Classroom With ICT facilities.</p> <p>Outdoor space With access to a range of flowering plants.</p> <p>Digital camera(s)</p> 	<p>Discover how bees view shape, colour and pattern in flowers (e.g. www.curriecology.org.uk/content/pollination_info.pdf) Use this information to find out if you have 'bee friendly' flowers in your school grounds.</p> <p>Explore the vital role bees play in pollinating our crops as well as wild species.</p> <p>Find out the differences between honeybees and bumblebees.</p> <p>SNH publications: <i>All about...Bumblebees</i> (includes role play games and art activities for primary pupils) www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/education/bumblebeefactsheet.pdf</p> <p>Bumblebee poster www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/education/poster/bumblebeeposter.pdf</p>

Main activity description

'Waggle' dance

Honeybees communicate through their 'waggle' dance to show others in the hive where to find food. They can indicate the direction and distance of the flower to others in the hive.

See www.britishbee.org.uk/faq.php#biology

After the preparatory activities, set a creative drama challenge for your class. They have to devise a teamwork game to take place outside that:

- Involves role play as honeybees from different hives.

- Sets up 'target' flowers in different locations in the school grounds.
- Challenges teams to find the correct flower by conveying information using movement like the honeybee.

Suggestions

- 'Flowers' could be real, drawn on the ground in chalk, or constructed.
- Worker bees could mime or dance to the rest of their team to include information on distance, direction and type of flower (no talking!).

- The flowers could provide some sort of reward or score; or penalties for choosing the wrong flower (e.g. lose one team member).
- Position teams and flowers to avoid cheating.

Review

What worked and didn't work? Did this game help with learning about bees? Can a bumblebee game be designed? Can the instructions for the game be captured and shared – using written instructions, photographic images, animation for example?

Extension activities

Habitats

Plan and create bee friendly habitats in your school grounds. Create living landscapes with wild flowers and meadow mixes. See Scotia Seeds www.scotiaseeds.co.uk and BBC BreathingPlaces. www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/1spring08/

Sources & further inspiration

Garden for Life (including bee information) www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/community-projects/garden-for-life/

Bee postcard (for younger primary) with rap song/activities

Bumblebee booklet

Bees4kids Importance of bees www.britishbee.org.uk/bees4kids/index.php

Bumblebee Conservation Trust www.bumblebeeconservation.org

