



## Let's Pollinate! (with Cheetos!)

### Content Connections:

Life Science - Life cycle of a plant and the role of pollination

**Grades:** K-3<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 30-60 minutes

**Objective:** In this lesson, students learn how pollination works by using Cheetos and bee finger puppets to simulate pollen transfer from flower to flower.

### Materials:

- flower print outs
- crayons
- scissors
- cupcake wrappers
- Cheetos (or other cheese coated snack)
- *Let's Pollinate* worksheet
- black and yellow pipe cleaners or bee cut outs
- hand wipes or access to a wash station or bathroom

### Procedure:

1. Review pollination for the class: Flowers need to exchange pollen in order to be able to make seeds. Since flowers can't move, they need help from pollinators. So deep in their petals, flowers produce a sweet sugary nectar that pollinators like bees, bats, birds, butterflies, and other insects love to eat.
2. To further illustrate pollination, show the "Pollination lesson with stop motion science animation for kids" YouTube video by Science Up with the Singing Zoologist:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zy3r1zIC\\_IU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zy3r1zIC_IU).
3. Tell students that today they are going to act out pollination! Give each student a picture of a flower to color and cut out. Alternatively, teacher can provide students with these already completed.

4. Set a cupcake paper in the middle of the flower and fill it with Cheetos.
5. Provide students with a bee hand puppet made out of a paper cutout or piper cleaners. This should go on their hands so that the fingers stick out and represent the bees legs.
6. Tell students to put on their bee puppets and then eat the Cheetos. If desired, let students fly around the room to other flowers and eat one or two Cheetos at a time. Tell the students to be sure NOT to brush or lick the Cheetos crumbs from their hands!
7. When they are finished eating, the bee's feet (student's fingers) should be covered with Cheetos crumbs.
8. Wait until everyone has gathered lots of pollen on their legs (Cheetos dust on their fingers), then instruct them to fly to a friend's flower and land on it. Ask them what they notice when they land on a flower. They should leave pollen (Cheetos dust) behind on the flower. Let the students fly around the room and pollinate a few flowers.
9. After a few pollination trips, instruct students to wash their hands.
10. Lastly, discuss with the students what they observed using the pollination worksheet to direct discussion and ask them to complete the pollination Let's Pollinate! worksheet to illustrate the sequence of events in pollination.

**Reference:**

- [Pollination – A Sticky Situation!](#) (New Jersey Agricultural Society).

# Let's Pollinate!

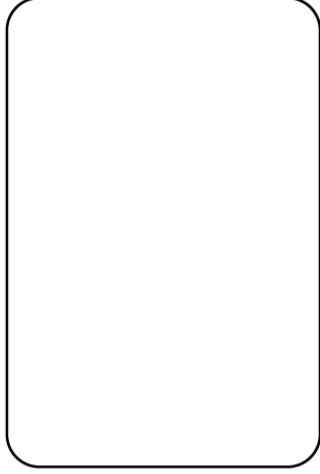
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Cheetos represent...

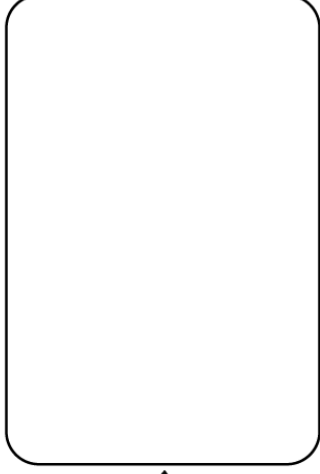
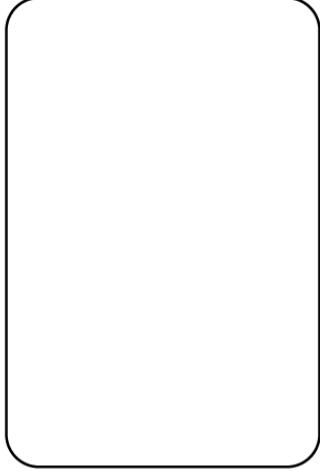
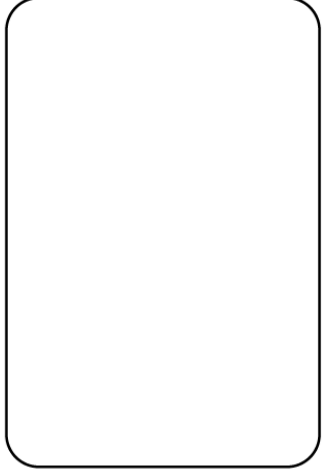
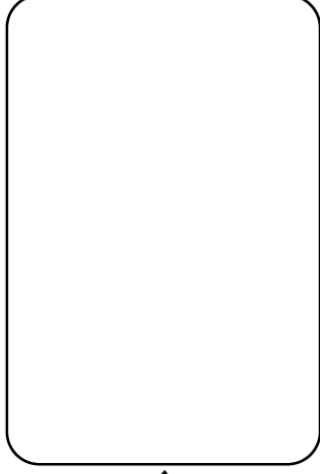
My fingers represent...

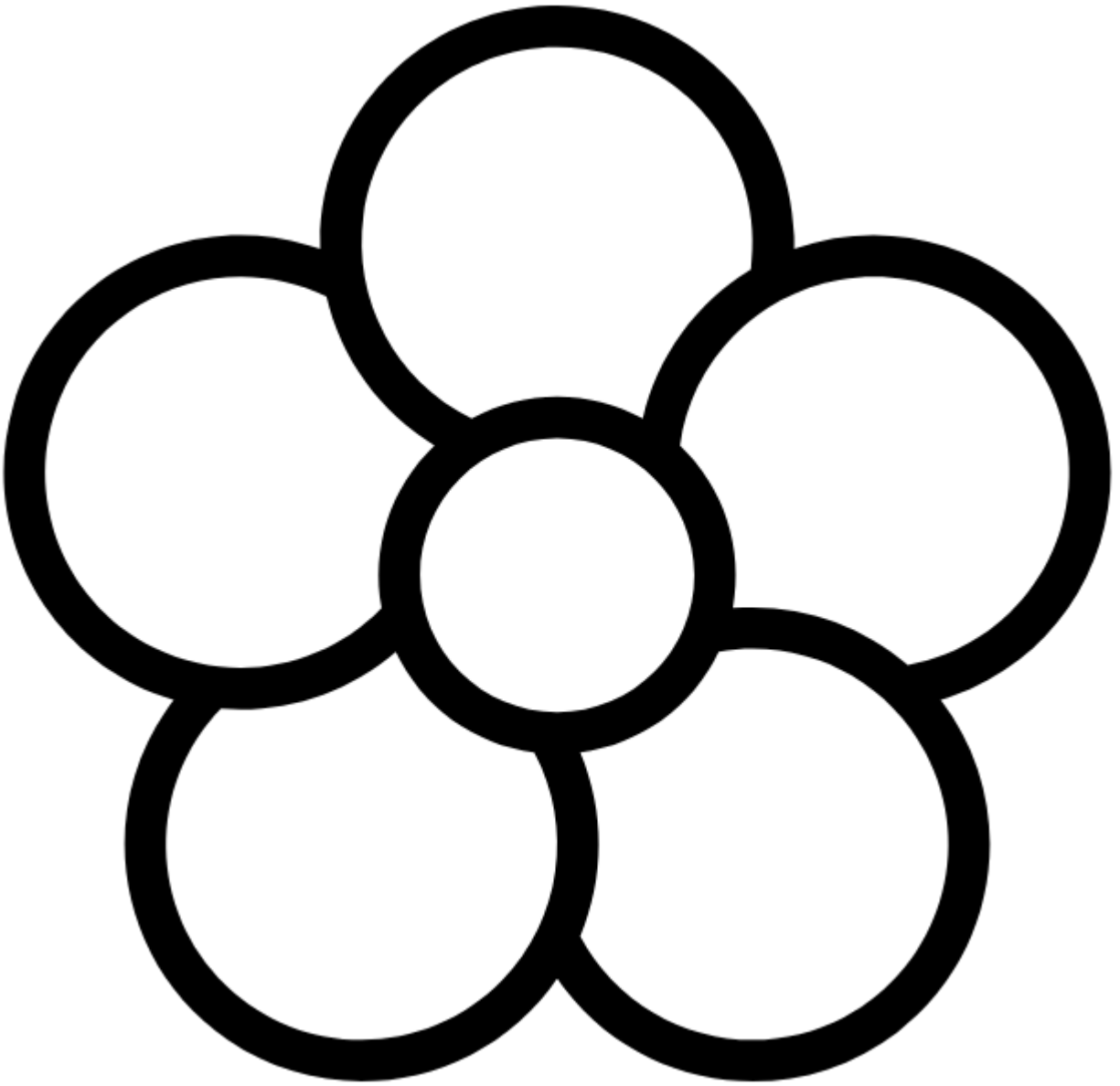
When I touched a friends flower...

Draw your answer



Write your answer





Print out one flower for each student to color and cut out.  
Place cupcake wrapper in center.  
Fill cupcake wrapper with Cheetos to represent pollen.



Print on cardstock or laminate  
Let students color bees  
Cut out bee body and inside the  
two white circles for fingers