Demonstrating how bees help flowers with pollination

Plant Unit Freebie Sample
I'm very excited about my plant unit. I have worked hard in hopes of making teaching about plants fun and valuable.

This unit begins with a list of suggested read alouds. Anytime you can squeeze in a few minutes to read aloud both fiction and nonfiction related to science concepts, the better. These read alouds will build the background knowledge and further their understanding.

After the read aloud list, you will find two pretests. One is the ABC brainstorm where students list everything they know related to plants that start with that letter. Together you can compile one big list on a paper on the doc cam, or evaluate it yourself. The other option is the KWLH chart. I like the H being added on because it gives me an idea how many students know where to go to explore ideas. It's sad that many students think the Internet is their only option to explore topics. The Internet is great, but so are many other sources!

After the pretest, students begin exploring the needs of plants. I have included a few experiments, but tried to keep this short, as I know many students grasp the needs of living things. I tried to incorporate some reading skills through a nonfiction article and some math skills with graphing results.

The next section of the unit is the Plant's Structures and Functions. I placed a bit more emphasis here. I have included the seed, the flower, and fruit as plant parts. Students will explore plant parts and their functions through several activities that expand into higher level thinking. I have provided cause and effect activities, RAFT Writing, a game, a nonfiction reading piece, a few hands-on activities, and more. I have also included a very brief, surface look at photosynthesis. Students will enjoy roleplaying how plants make food.

In the third section of this unit, Classifying Plants, students explore how scientists classify plants through hands-on activities and cooperative learning. Students will practice classifying all while reviewing plant structures.

Finally, for the last section of this unit, The Plant Life Cycle, students will read about Phoebe Plant's life (going through the cycle), create their own Plant Cycle Wheel, and much more! The unit wraps up with students demonstrating their understanding of all areas of this unit through a photo album scrapbook or an optional autobiography.

This unit can be used as is, following it lesson by lesson. There are lots of activities provided throughout these pages that can either be utilized as anchor activities, centers, work for early finishers, or even combined to make a choice board. In addition, I have also placed enrichment opportunities to challenge your higher learners.

I hope you consider purchasing the entire unit!
**Flower Power**

**Essential Question:** What do plants need to survive?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials (per group or per student)</th>
<th>Advanced Preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 3 cupcake liners</td>
<td>• Make copies of the Student Recording sheet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 cotton balls</td>
<td>• Set up each group by placing one cotton ball in a cupcake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 cotton Swab</td>
<td>liner. Sprinkle one color of glitter or Kool-Aid on the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kool-Aid packets of three different colors</td>
<td>cotton ball. Repeat with the other two colors on the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(or three different colors of glitter).</td>
<td>other two cotton balls (one color per cotton ball).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be shared among the groups/students</td>
<td>• Decide if you want to do this in groups or as individuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Small amount of water in a cup</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Directions:**
- Ask if animals really need plants. If someone suggests that we need them for oxygen, ask if we need them for anything else. Ask if plants need us. Provide each group with the items above.
- Discuss with students that flowers produce pollen and that bees pick it up as they approach a flower and transfer it when they go to another flower. They will be demonstrating this.
- Ask students what happens when a flower gets pollinated. Remind students that this is how fruit or seeds occur.
- Have a student dab the cotton swab in the water. Then squeeze the excess water off it. Gently rub the cotton swab across one of the cotton balls, slightly picking up the glitter/Kool-aid. Then continue on to another cotton ball. Do this with all three colors and all three cotton balls.
- Ask students what they observed and what each part represents.
- Review again why plants and animals need each other.
Name _______________________________

Flower Pollination

1.) Do animals need plants? Do plants need animals? Explain.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

2.) Explain how bees help flowers with pollination.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3.) After the experiment, write what you observed here.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4.) Color what each cotton ball looks like here.

5.) Tell what each part of the experiment represented:
   Cotton ball: ____________________________
   Cotton swab: ____________________________
   Color: ____________________________

6.) Why do you think it’s important for bees to help pollinate flowers?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
A Special Thanks

Thank you for trying out my product! I hope you found this resource useful. If you enjoyed this freebie, please consider purchasing the rest of the unit!

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