

Beauty and the Bees:

Educator Guide, Pre-K – 3rd Grade

PreK – Kindergarten

Language and Science:

Encourage a class discussion about bees and flowers. Ask the following questions and provide information when children do not know answers:

What does a bee look like? (Bees are black and yellow. They have 6 legs, 5 eyes, 2 pairs of wings, a nectar pouch and a stomach).

What does a bee sound like? (When the bee moves its wings extremely fast, it makes a buzzing sound).

What do bees eat or how do they survive? (Bees feed on nectar from flowers or flowering trees).

Where do bees live? (Bees live in a hive, with a group of bees called a colony).

What is a bee's job? (Most bees are worker bees because they have an important job. Bees take pollen and seeds from one flower to another. Bees make honey from flower and tree nectar).

How do bees help our environment? (Bees help flowers and trees grow. They carry pollen to fertilize trees and flowers).

What would happen if there were no bees? (Flowers, trees, and plants would die off if the bees do not fertilize them).

What kinds of flowers can you name? (Roses, lilacs, daisies, petunias, begonias, sunflowers, forget-me-nots, violets, peonies, magnolias, etc).

Show children pictures of different kinds of flowers. Ask them to choose which flower(s) they like best and have them explain why. Encourage children to describe the flowers by color, shape, size, petal length, and other features. Have them compare flower features, too.

Nutrition:

Sample some honey. Encourage children to taste honey. Bring apples or whole grain bread and have children sample the food with honey.

Make a Honey Bee Snack.

What you need:

Honey
Bananas
Tortillas
Plastic knives and paper plates

What to do:

Give each child a plate, a knife, a tortilla and half of a banana. Allow children to cut bananas in slices with a plastic knife. Show children how to place bananas on the tortilla and drizzle with honey. Then roll up the tortilla. Enjoy!

Art Activities:

Colorful bumblebee hats:

What you need:

Pipe cleaners
Pompom balls
Triangle party hats (or construction paper)

What to do:

1. Cut the top 3-4 inches off the party hats (so you are left with a headband with the string attachment)
2. Poke a hole in each side of the party hat.
3. Show children how to string the pipe cleaner through the hole and bend it or twist it so it stays in place.
4. Twist the top of each pipe cleaner around a pompom to finish the top of the antennae.

Baby bumblebees:

What you need:

Black and yellow construction paper
Empty toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls
Tissue paper
Scissors
Glue
Googly craft eyes

What to do:

1. Show children how to make bumblebee stripes by cutting thin strips of black and yellow construction paper.
2. Have them glue the strips around the toilet paper roll in a black and yellow pattern.
3. Add googly eyes to each bee.
4. Show children how to cut or tear tissue paper for wings and glue them on the bee.

Wild Flower collage:

What you need:

Various magazines, newspaper circulars

Butcher paper

Scissors

Glue

What to do:

1. Encourage children to look through magazines and newspaper circulars to find different kinds of flowers.
2. Ask children to cut out the different flowers and glue them on the large sheet of butcher paper to make a wildflower collage. How many different kinds of flowers can children find?
3. Help children identify the kind of flower and write the name of the flower near the picture if possible. Continue to add to the collage throughout the week.

Music and Movement:

Explain to children that bees dance and move around to communicate with one another. They tell each other where flowers are! Encourage children to dance and buzz around the classroom or outside.

Play different kinds of instrumental music and encourage children to move in different ways with the music.

Allow children to wear their colorful bumblebee hats.

Or, show children how to place their baby bumblebees on their to move around the room and buzz.

Kindergarten – 1st Grade

Language and Science:

Class discussion: Introduce children the concept of pollination. Talk about how bees pollinate other plants. Pollination means that bees collect pollen from one plant and transport it to another plant. Bees fertilize plants that produce some of our favorite foods, including:

- Apples, oranges, lemons, and limes
- Blueberries, cherries, and cranberries
- Broccoli, Cucumbers, and Onions
- Watermelon, and Cantaloupes
- Carrots, Avocados, and Almonds

Art Activity:

Paper mache bee hives

What you need:

- Balloons
- Bowls
- Flour
- Water
- Newspaper, ripped in strips

What to do:

1. Make the paste - Stir 1 part water and 1 part flour together in a bowl.
2. Blow up balloons.
3. Split children into groups of 3-5 and give each group a balloon and a bowl of paste. (*Consider taping the balloon to the table so it stays in place.)
4. Show children how to dip a newspaper strip in the paste then slide it through two fingers to remove excess paste. Apply newspaper strip to the balloon.
5. Continue applying newspaper strips all over the balloon. Create several layers, leaving some holes (That's where the bees can enter and exit!)
6. Allow the hives to dry completely (usually 24 hours or more).
7. Break the balloon and remove it.
8. Optional: Glue 3-D craft bees around the hive, or have children draw bees, cut them out, and glue them on the hive.

1st – 3rd Grade

Science:

Plant wild flower seeds to make your own wild flower garden. Watch for bees! Visit a local wildflower garden.

Make a class poster or book about bees:

Encourage children to research to find fun facts about bees.

Draw pictures and diagrams to accompany the facts.

Here are some facts to get started:

Bees live together in a colony.

There are about 20,000 different bee species

A bee visits between 50-100 flowers during one trip.

A queen bee can lay 200,000 eggs in one year.

Male bees are drones.

Only worker bees can sting.

Honeybees communicate by dancing to show where to find flowers.

(Fact source: <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/bees.html>)

Introduce children to how bees make honey and illustrate the process with a diagram or picture.

1. A honeybee visits a flower.
2. The bee sucks flower nectar (sugar water) and stores it in its body.
3. The bee returns to the hive and the worker bees suck the nectar from the bee's stomach.
4. The worker bees chew the nectar and spread it on the inside of the honeycomb.
5. Water evaporates from the nectar and it becomes a thick honey. Bees can fan the honey to make it dry faster.
6. The bees seal off that part of the honeycomb with wax.
7. Bees feed on the honey or humans can collect the honey.

Language:

Encourage children to compare Beauty and the Bees with the original fairy tale Beauty and the Beast. Ask children to work with a partner or small group to make a list of similarities and differences. Give prompts about how children can evaluate the characters, the story line, the main events, the ending and so on.

Art Activity:

Tissue Paper Flowers –

What you need:

Various colors of tissue paper

Large white paper (e.g., 16" x 20")

Glue and water mixture (1 part glue to 2 parts water)

Paintbrushes

What to do:

1. Show children how to cut or rip tissue paper into small strips of different sizes and shapes.
2. Encourage children to pick the colors and shapes they like and place them on the piece of white paper.
3. Then show children how to dip the paintbrush in the glue mixture and paint over the top of the tissue paper to make it stick. Children will find that the colors of the tissue paper run a bit to make interesting combinations!
4. Allow the tissue paper flowers to dry completely. Then hang them around the room to make your own classroom flower bed.
5. Extension activity: As children pretend to be bees, have them buzz around the room and pretend to take pollen from flower to flower just as real bees do.

More Bee Resources:

Check out the following websites for more fun facts:

<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/insects/bee>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/honeybees/>