



Pollination Pre-Trip Activities

To prepare your students for the investigations they will do on site, we recommend doing these activities prior to your visit.

From Fruit to Flowers - A Life Cycle Card Sort

Purpose:

To introduce students to the important role pollinators play in a flower's life cycle.

Materials:

- Flower life cycle card sets (enough for 5-6 small groups depending on class size)

Note: This activity works best when carried out in small groups of about 4-6 students in 1st and 2nd grade classrooms, and works better as a large class activity in kindergarten classrooms.

Steps:

1. Have a class discussion. Ask students:
 - Why are flowers important?
 - Why do bees and other pollinators like flowers?
2. In small groups, have the children put the life cycle cards in order from apple blossoms to mature fruit.
3. After reviewing the "flower-to-fruit" cycle, ask the students:
 - Are there any flowers in the life cycle pictures? Discuss the different stages of the life cycle where flowers are present.
 - Why are flowers important to an apple tree?

Pollinator Preference - Does Color Matter?

Purpose:

To familiarize students with the relationships between flower petal color and pollinator attraction.

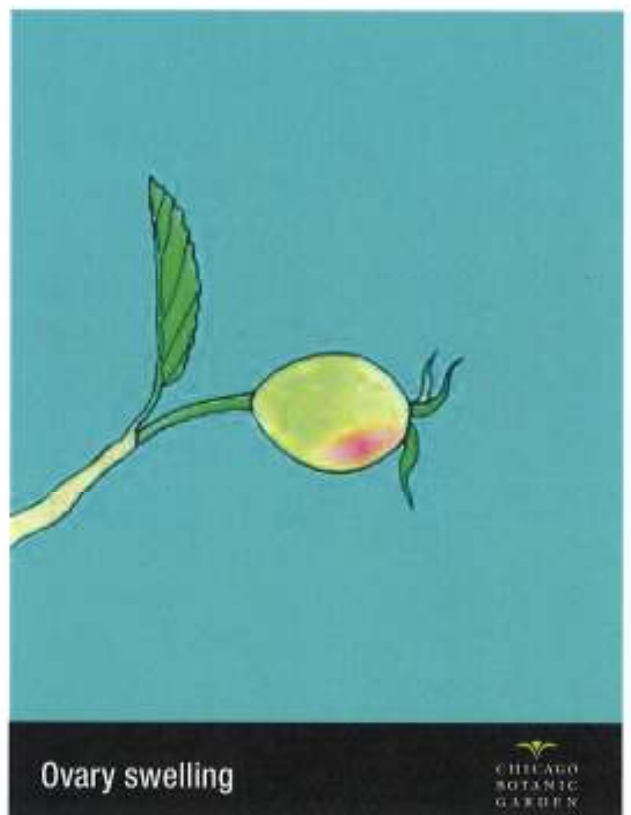
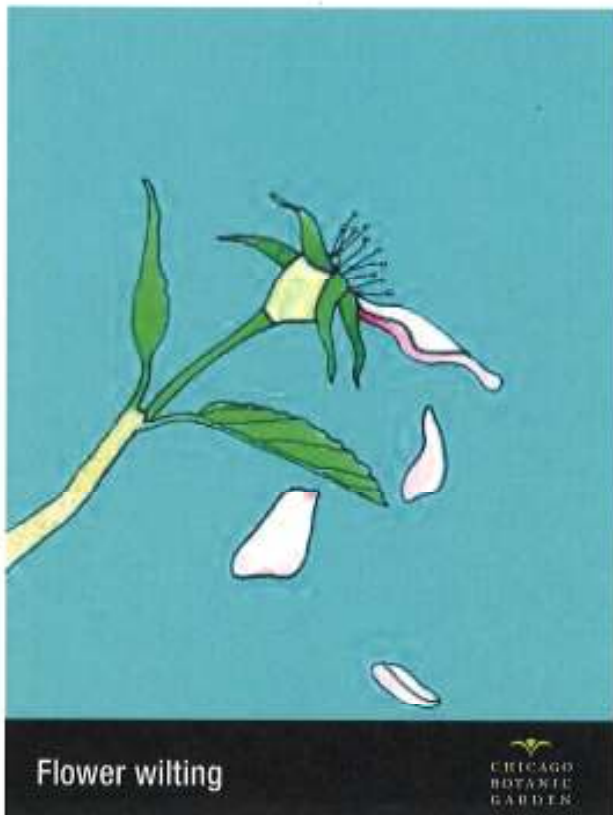
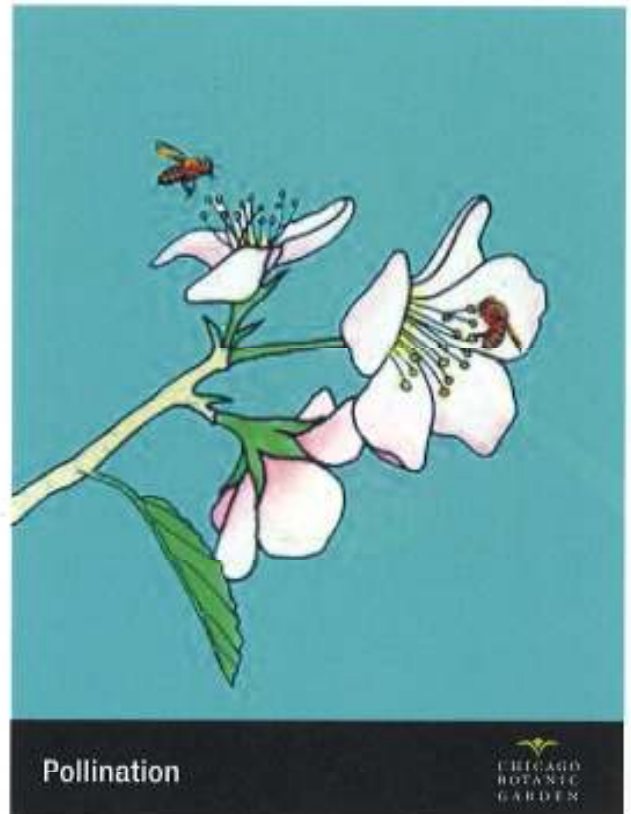
Materials:

- Colored Index Cards (Red, Blue, Green, Yellow)
- 4 Petri-Dishes or small, clear containers
- Sugar
- Water

Steps:

1. Mix a solution of one part sugar to two parts water.
2. Pour enough solution into each petri-dish to just cover the bottom of the container. Be sure to not overfill!
3. Find an area open outside of your classroom (near flowering plants if possible). Place the colored index cards in a straight line on the ground with 1-foot spacing in-between each card.
4. Place the solution-filled petri-dishes on top of each colored index card.
5. Allow the petri-dishes to sit undisturbed for 30 minutes.
6. After 30 minutes pass, check on the petri-dishes and see if any pollinators have landed in the solution.
7. Ask the students:
 - Which color attracted the most insects?
 - Are different insects attracted to different colors?
 - Why is it important for flowers to have bright colored petals?

Life Cycle Cards—1 of 2



Life Cycle Cards—2 of 2

