Living the Hive Life

Beach Ball Pollination Game

*Adapted from: Story County Conservation REAP CEP project, Teachers-Going-Green.com

Materials

sticky notes (up to four colors) beach ball

Procedure

- 1. Each person has a sticky note and represents a vegetable or fruit producing plant that grows in your area. All students will represent the same plant (i.e. apple tree).
- 2. When the ball (which represents a pollinator) is passed to a person, put on your pollen and throw the ball to someone else.
- 3. When the next person receives the ball, take off a pollen, put on your pollen.
- 4. Continue to see how many people get pollinated in 30 seconds.
- 5. Reflect on how many plants were pollinated and how the number might be increased.
- 6. Add several more beach balls to illustrate having more pollinators. What happens to the number of plants pollinated?
- 7. Take all of the pollinators away. What does this represent?
- 8. During the next round, if you are not pollinated in 15 seconds sit down. What does this represent?
- 9. For the final round, one part of the group will be soybean plants. Soybeans are self-pollinating, so sticky notes will be on your back. When you receive the beach ball, reach with one hand to get one note off your back to add it to the ball. If the beach ball has a soybean pollen note on it, you can take it off.

Reflection

- 1. What are some of the issues of pollinators?
- 2. What are some things that people can do to encourage pollinators?

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