



Pollen Transfer Race

(Suggested Ages: 3+)



Gather

- Tweezers
- Ice Tray, Egg Carton and or 2 Bowls
- "Pollen Grains" - Fruit Loops, Cheerios, Rice, or Pom Poms
- A Stopwatch (optional)

Let's Play!

1. Set up your pollen items in a bowl on one side of the room and the "hive" ice tray or egg carton on the other.
2. Split into teams if playing as a relay race and set the timer to 1 minute.
3. Use the tweezers to transfer pollen from the bowl to the hive, trying to get as much pollen transferred as you can.
4. When time's up, count the pollen grains to see which person or team won!

How Does it Work?

Honey bees and other bees have fuzzy hairy bodies and legs that help them collect pollen to bring back to their hive. Pollen is easily caught on the hair and the bees can collect it into pollen "baskets" on their legs. Pollen is an important protein source in the honeybee diet, just like eggs, chicken, and milk are protein sources for people! When pollen and nectar are mixed, "bee bread" is made. Bee bread is one of the main food sources for the hive.

Take it Further!

Honey bees and other pollinators help flowers grow by spreading pollen from flower to flower. This occurs when bees accidentally lose pollen from their hairy legs onto a new flower. Pollination occurs other by wind and by other insects, too. To learn more about pollination, click the link below:

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/What_is_Pollination/