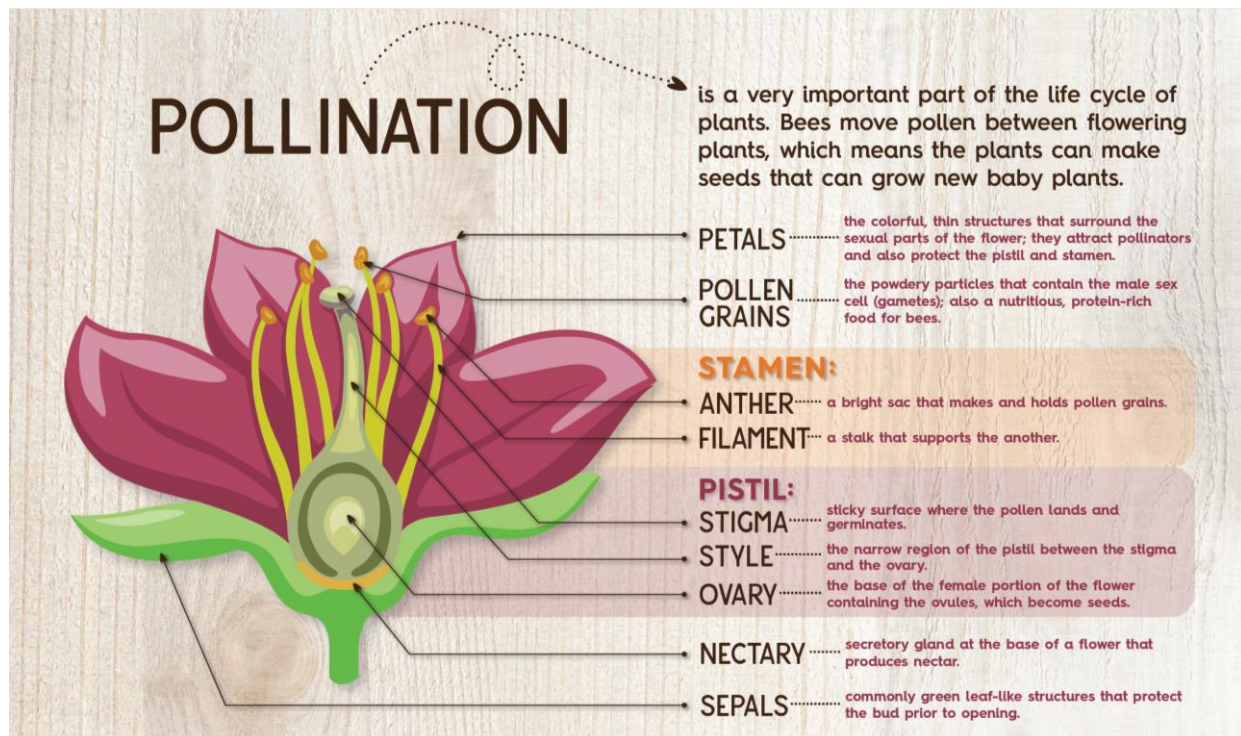




## **BEES AND POLLINATION**

Honeybees make honey, but they do so much more. They are an important part of our ecosystem as pollinators. Honeybees pollinate plants throughout the growing season, including a wide range of crops, like almonds, apples, avocados, cucumbers, melons, pears and many more. But what is pollination? As the honeybees are gathering nectar, they're also pollinating flowering plants. As they move from one flower to the next, those flowers are providing nectar and protein-rich pollen. Pollination is simply the transfer of pollen grains from an anther to a stigma.



## **WHY DO BEES MAKE HONEY?**

Honeybees collect nectar to create honey and store as food because it provides the energy for bees' flight muscles and provides heating for the hive in the winter. Fortunately, honeybees will make more honey than the colony needs, so beekeepers harvest the excess and bottle it for us to enjoy.

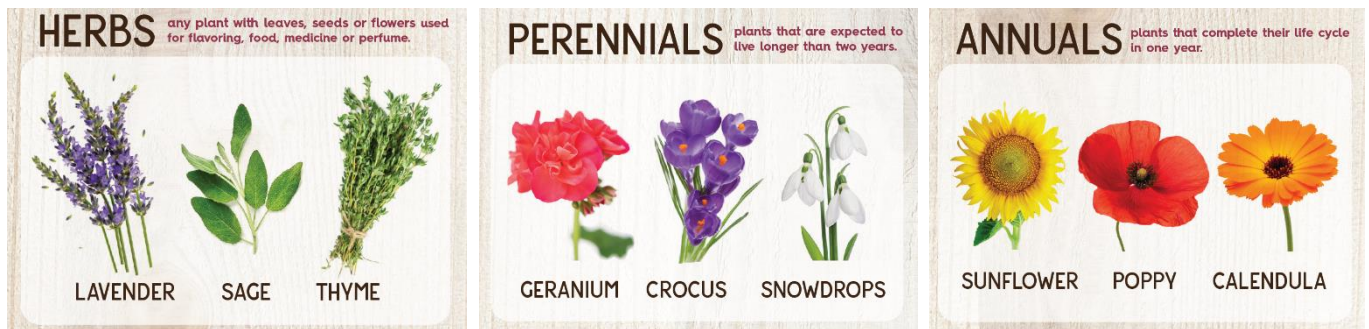
## WHY DOES HONEY TASTE DIFFERENT?

The color, flavor, and even aroma of honey differs, depending on the nectar of flowers visited by the bees that made it. In the United States there are at least 300 or more UNIQUE types of honey available for sale. Each of those types originate from a different flower source. With an adult's help, take a spoonful of honey at home and see if you can describe what it tastes like.



## HOW CAN I HELP?

Honeybees help the plants we see and eat every day grow. But sometimes they need a little help. Want to help honeybees? Plant bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in your garden and yard. Use all-natural products, free from chemicals, in your garden while plants are in bloom.



## THIRSTY BEES

Bees are thirsty. Leave a shallow dish of fresh water with marbles or rocks outside for bees to drink. The marbles/rocks give the bees a place to stand while they drink and prevent them from drowning.



# Pollination Activity

How does pollination happen? Let's find out!

## Materials and Supplies:

small candy pieces (Bit-O-Honey work well)

bowl

cheese puffs

paper towel

marker

## Directions:

1. Using a marker, draw flowers on a paper towel.
2. Place the candy in the bowl.
3. Fill the bowl with cheese puffs.
4. Using your hand, dig through the cheese puffs to get a piece of candy.
5. Wipe your hand on the paper towel. Repeat steps four and five until all of the candy is gone.
6. How do the bowl, candy, cheese puffs, cheese powder, and paper towel represent parts of the pollination process? Even your hand plays a role.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

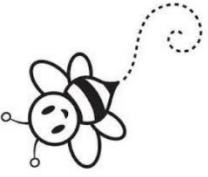
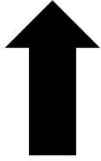
## How do bees pollinate flowers?

What do the Cheetos represent?

What does my hand represent?

What happened when I touched the flower?

Illustrate



--	--	--