



# BACKYARD ADVENTURES

## LITTLE LAB WEEK 4: FLOWERS, SEEDS & POLLINATION

EVER WONDER . . . WHY PLANTS HAVE FLOWERS?

### What we learned this week:

- The names of some different types of flowers.
- Flowers need pollen from another flower to make more seeds.
- Bees, butterflies and some other creatures help flowers make seeds.

### Curiosity Circle

Captain Curiosity had a lot of questions about flowers this week! First we pulled flowers out of the mystery box and planted a flower garden as we learned their different names. Next, we explored the answers to these “Ever wonder?” questions: **Ever wonder why plants have flowers?** Plants use flowers to make seeds. Their seeds then fall to the ground and grow into new plants, which make more flowers (and more seeds)! This cycle continues on and on, keeping the Earth covered with plants. **Ever wonder why flowers have petals?** Flowers use their petals (and often their smell) to attract insects, such as butterflies and bees, to help carry something called “pollen” from flower to flower. **Ever wonder what pollen is?** Pollen plays a very important role in making seeds. It is a fine, powdery material produced in the middle of a flower. Without pollen, flowers cannot produce seeds. There is a lot of pollen in the air during the spring; if you look carefully, you will see it collecting on outdoor surfaces everywhere. Many people are allergic to pollen, which makes their eyes itchy and their nose runny. It’s almost like having a cold!

**Ever wonder how a seed grows into a flower?** Most flower seeds need soil, water and sunshine to grow. Once planted, a flower seed will first grow roots, leaves and a stem. Eventually, when the plant is big enough, it will burst out in flowers! Most plants flower in their first year, but some take longer. One rare plant in South America doesn’t flower until it is 150 years old -- and then it dies! **Ever wonder why bees and butterflies are so important to flowers?** Butterflies, bees, and a few other creatures help to carry pollen from flower to flower; this process is called pollination. Without their help, many seeds would not be able to form! Of course, pollen can also be carried by the wind – which is why it sometimes seems to be spreading everywhere! **Ever wonder why there are so many flowers in the spring and summer?** Different flowers grow and bloom during different times of the year, but nature puts on an extra show in warm weather because the long sunny days and frequent rain showers make it the perfect time to grow seeds.



### Curiosity Centers

- ◆ **Discovery Activity:** We looked at pollen under a microscope.
- ◆ **Manipulative Activity:** We used different garden tools to “plant” seeds in the sand table. We also used butterfly and bee puppets to pollinate the flowers in our garden!
- ◆ **Art Activity:** We planted our own mini flower garden to take home, then added a pretend pollinator!

### The Roundup & The Big Deal

We learned a funny song about pollination, then pretended to fly around and pollinate a gigantic flower garden!

### Hey, Hey Word of the Day: POLLINATION

### Curiosity @ Home

Make this week at home all about flowers, seeds and pollination. Look for bees and butterflies hard at work. Study the flowers in your yard and see if you can find the pollen. Also look for seeds being formed by flowers. A classic example is the dandelion, but you can easily see the seeds on most flowering plants. Cut out and use the pollinator puppets to pretend to pollinate the flowers in your house and yard. Finally, don’t forget to put your new flower garden in a sunny place and water it regularly. Keep the plastic wrap on to keep the seeds moist until they sprout. (Then, you may want to transfer the seeds to a special place in your garden.)



## Songs & Poems

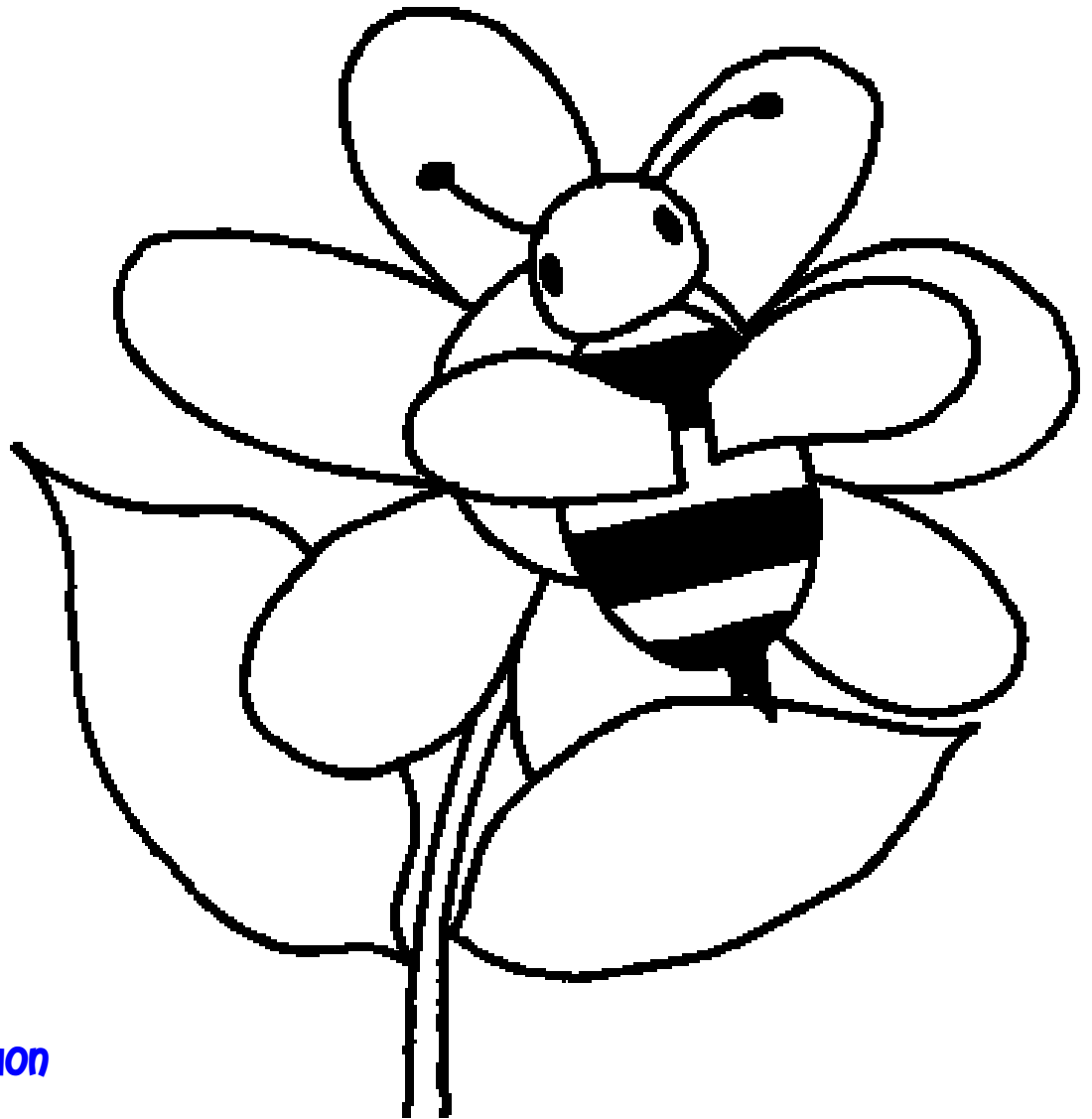
**C-Zone Song** (to the tune “I’m a Little Teapot”)  
Welcome Song  
Welcome to the C-Zone  
It’s time for us to start  
Exploring and learning  
We’ve all got a part  
(Spoken) So let’s fasten up our lab coats and get curious!

**Song to the Captain:**  
(to the tune “Wheels on the Bus”)  
Pollination helps make the seeds  
(What?)  
Make the seeds (What?)  
Make the seeds (What?)  
Pollination helps make seeds  
(What?)  
From which our flowers grow!

Bees help carry the pollen (What?)  
The pollen (What?)  
The pollen (What?)  
Bees help carry the pollen (What?)  
So do butterflies.

**The Pollination Song (to the tune of Allouete)**  
(Marching) Pollination, poll-in-na-tion  
Pollination,  
(cup hands together and outstretch, like you are showing something you made)  
that’s how seeds are made!  
(flap your arms) First a bee or butterfly  
(open arms wide above your head)  
Carries pollen in the sky  
(put hands together above head and form circle with arms like you are a flower; lean to one side) From a flower  
(lean to the other side) to a flower  
(clapping) Oh, oh, oh, oh. . .

**C-Zone Goodbye Song**  
Goodbye from the C-Zone  
It’s time for us to go  
The learning never stops  
Now tell me what you know!



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IS FOR POLLINATION

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