



Dances with Bees

Introduction

In the book *If You Love Honey*, author Martha Sullivan introduces students to a meadow ecosystem. Honey bees are a key part of this ecosystem. Honey bees use a “dance” to communicate the location of a flower patch, a part of the ecosystem that is essential to their survival. In this activity students reenact bee dances to experience how bees communicate with one another.

Materials

- The book *If You Love Honey*
- Activity Sheet “Dances with Bees” from Science NetLinks <http://sciencenetlinks.com/afterschool-resources/dances-bees/>
- One flower (real or fake) or a drawing of a flower
- Masking tape or a black board

Common Core Standards (ELA K-3)

Reading Literature

- Key Ideas and Details: K.1, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: K.7, 1.7, 2.7, 3.7

Reading Informational Text

- Key Ideas and Details: K.1, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: K.7, 1.7, 2.7, 3.7

Procedure

1. Prep: Read the activity description at Science Net Links <http://sciencenetlinks.com/afterschool-resources/dances-bees/> to set up your room.
2. Read aloud of *If You Love Honey*. Have them look for bees in each illustration and identify what they’re doing. (Note: there are some pages without any bees.)
3. Under “Explore More — For Kids,” read aloud “From Nectar to Honey” and discuss the process.
4. Refer to “Activity Instructions” at Science Net Links <http://sciencenetlinks.com/afterschool-resources/dances-bees/> and follow the directions for the activity. This game sets the stage for a discussion about the importance of bees and the ways people can help provide a healthy habitat for them.

Next Generation Science Standards (K-3)

Disciplinary Core Idea: Life Science

- LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Function
- LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Cross-Cutting Concepts

- Patterns, cause and effect, systems and system models, stability and change