



Observing the Behavior of Bees Near Flowers



Name: _____ Date: _____



OBJECTIVE

To observe and record the behavior of bees near flowers.



QUESTION

How do bees behave when they visit flowers?



MATERIALS

- Notebook or observation sheet
- Pencil
- Timer or stopwatch
- Flowers (in your garden, yard, or park)
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Quiet spot to observe

Bees are important! Observe gently and do not disturb them.



PROCEDURE

1. Find a flowering plant with visible bees visiting.
2. Sit quietly a few feet away so you do not disturb the bees.
3. Watch the bees for 10 minutes.
4. Record your observations in the data table below. Use tally marks.
5. Look for different behaviors. (See the list in the data table.)
6. When your time is up, total your tallies.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Bees are working! Let them do their job.
- Keep a safe distance.
- Do not touch or try to hold the bees.
- If you are allergic to bee stings, ask an adult before starting.



DATA TABLE

Observation Time: _____ minutes (We recommend 10 minutes)

Behavior Observed	What It Looks Like	Tally Marks	Total
Flying to the flower	Bee in the air moving toward a flower		
Landing on the flower	Bee touches down on the flower		
Collecting nectar	Bee's head in the flower; feeding		
Collecting pollen	Bee touching the parts of the flower; pollen on legs/body		
Resting on the flower	Bee still on the flower, not feeding		
Flying away	Bee leaves the flower and flies away		

TOTAL OBSERVATIONS: _____



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which behavior did you see the most? _____
2. Which behavior did you see the least? _____
3. What did you notice about how long bees stayed on each flower? _____

4. Why do you think bees visit flowers? _____

