



Busy as a Bee

EXPERIMENT

Learn about the process of pollination.

Worldwide, roughly 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, spices, fibers and medicines need to be pollinated in order to produce the goods on which we depend.

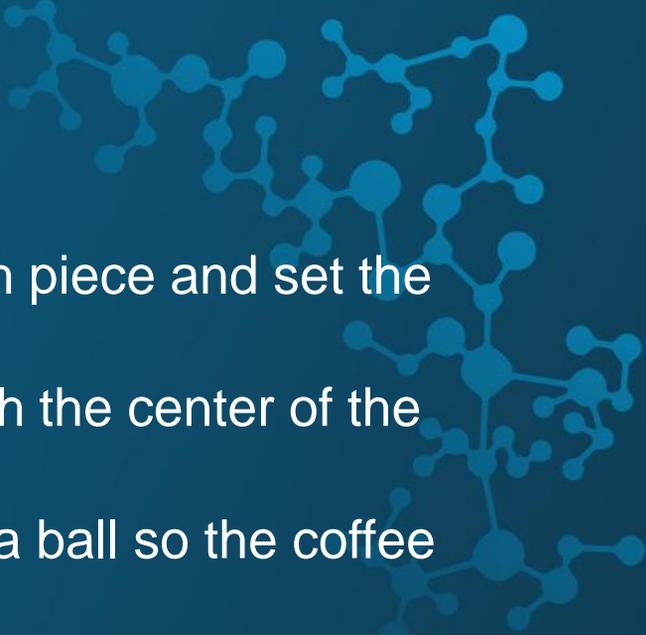


What you'll need

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Cheese puff snacks
- One round coffee filter
- One green pipe cleaner
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Safety glasses



Directions:

1. Put on the safety glasses.
 2. Take the pipe cleaner and cut off a 2-3 inch piece and set the short piece to the side.
 3. Push the long piece of pipe cleaner through the center of the coffee filter.
 4. Roll about an inch of the pipe cleaner into a ball so the coffee filter won't fall off.
 5. Scrunch the coffee filter around the end of the pipe cleaner.
 6. Wrap the short piece of pipe cleaner around the scrunched up coffee filter to hold them together.
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- A decorative graphic in the top right corner of the slide, consisting of a network of blue circles of varying sizes connected by thin lines, resembling a molecular structure or a network diagram.

Directions:

7. Take the brown paper bag and cut it down to about half its size.
8. Using the stapler, attach the coffee filter flower to the outside of the brown paper bag.
9. Place a handful of cheese puff snacks inside the brown paper bag.
10. Pretending that your hand is a “bee”, touch the cheese puffs in the bag so that some of the pollen is on your fingers.
11. Now, fly the “bee” to the flower on your bag and have it land (touch the flower with your hand).
12. Congratulations! Your “bee” just pollinated the flower and you can now enjoy your snack.

What This Means

Pollination occurs when pollen is moved within flowers or carried from flower to flower by pollinating animals or pollinators such as bees, birds, bats, butterflies, moths or the wind. The transfer of pollen in and between flowers of the same species leads to fertilization and successful seed and fruit production for plants.

