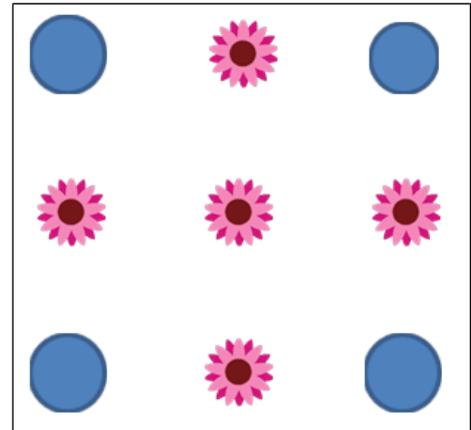




Pollen Game

What you will need:

- A large open space, i.e. a games hall or garden
- Buckets or hula hoops (the flowers)
- Bean bags or small balls (the pollen)
- Teams of children (the worker bumblebees)
- One hula hoop per team (the nest)



How to play:

1. Split the children into teams of equal size and give each team a hula hoop (a nest – blue in diagram).
2. Place hula hoops containing bean bags/ small balls around the hall, ideally an equal distance from each team's nest. These represent the flowers which contain the pollen (pink flowers in diagram).
3. Number the players in the team. When you shout out a number, the corresponding child from each team has to run to a flower, collect a piece of pollen and bring it back to the nest. Only one piece of pollen can be carried at a time. This is repeated until the pollen has run out.

The **aim of the game** is for each nest to collect as much pollen as possible before the pollen runs out. It is a race and the team with the most pollen in its nest at the end is the winner. Make the game easier/ harder by adding/ taking away pollen.

In nature bumblebees need pollen and nectar from flowers to survive. If the pollen or nectar was to run out the bees would eventually die. This is why it is really important that we plant lots of pollen- and nectar-rich flowers in our gardens; so that there are plenty of flowers throughout the year to feed all of the bees.

A **variation for this game** would be to replace the pollen (bean bags) with nectar (water) and give each team a cup/ jug to carry the nectar from the buckets (the flowers) back to their nests (also buckets). The team with the largest volume of water at the end of the game would be the winner. This variation would be best played outdoors.

Or, why not use bumblebee names instead of numbers for each team member.