

Flowers

Advertising for insects (4 +)



If you look outside, you often see billboards. Shops lure people to them to come and buy something. Advertising is often colourful and striking. Some shops even use the smell of fresh bread to attract customers.

Flowers are the billboards of nature. The plant uses them to attract insects to its flower. Let yourself be lured to the flowers and discover what you can get!

Learning Objectives

- You will learn that flowers attract insects with scent, color and nectar.
- You will learn that there are also plants that do not need advertising. Learning goals

Location

- In the garden, around your house

Needed

- Different flowers
- Grass



Advertising for insects

1. Go outside and look around you. Do you see flowers?

2. Look at the flowers up close for a while.

- Do you see insects like butterflies, bees or hoverflies near the flowers?
- What does the insect do on the flower?
- Do you see yellow or orange powder (pollen) on the body or legs?

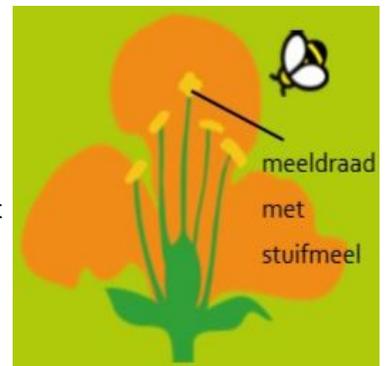


3. Take a good look at the flower itself.

- How many colours does the flower have?
- Is the colour of the flower different in the middle? Why is that, do you think?
The flower wants to lure the insect to the centre of the flower; the colours show the way.



- Do you see sprigs of yellow powder in the flower? Those are the stamens with pollen.
- Gently press your finger into the flower. Is there pollen on it now?
Help the bees! Gently bring the pollen with your finger to another flower that looks like your flower.



Thank you for your help! Now seeds can grow in the flower.

4. Smell the flower. Do you think that the insect only liked the color, or also the smell?

5. Some plants attract insects with nectar. That's a kind of lemonade syrup in the flower. You can taste it if you suck on the flower from, for example, the white deaf nettle.



6. Which flower do you like the most? Why do you like it? Tell each other.

Do all plants advertise to attract insects?

Look around you, do you see grass anywhere? Take a closer look at it.

- Is the grass in bloom? Are they colourful, striking flowers?
- What do you think, would the grass lure insects with this?
No, the pollen from grass isn't carried by insects, but by the wind from one flower to another. So grass doesn't need advertising!

