

# INV. 5 ACTIVITY—INSECTS AND FLOWERS

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## Review

If we had observed the life cycle of brassica plants in the classroom we would have seen pollen in the flowers. Since we are learning at home, we will go outside to look for pollen in various outdoor flowers.

## Investigation

If you are able, view the streaming video called “What is Pollination” Look for it in your Media Library on FOSSweb. After you watch it, discuss the following questions with your child:

- What is pollen?
- What does pollinate mean?
- What kinds of animals pollinate flowers?
- Why are pollinators, animals that pollinate flowers, so important?

## Focus questions: Where can we find pollen near our home?

Find a black sock or a black piece of felt or cloth. Go with your guardian on a nature walk, looking for flowers. First observe each flowering plant to make sure there are not any bees near you. If it is safe, gently press the flower onto the black cloth and observe. Try hard not to damage the flower. Do you see any pollen? What color is it?

## Some things to look for:

1. Are there any insects or other animals visiting the flowers?
2. If so, could you tell what they were doing?
3. What color is the pollen? Does all pollen look the same?

Try to visit as many flowers as you can in about 15–20 min.

Please answer the focus question in your notebook.

## Follow up activities:

- Watch what happens to those flowers you found pollen on. How do they change as time moves on.
- Continue to keep an eye out for insects in, around, or near your home. They are everywhere.
- Keep a tally for how many different insects your family sees. Instead of tally marks you might want to write the name or a quick drawing of it.