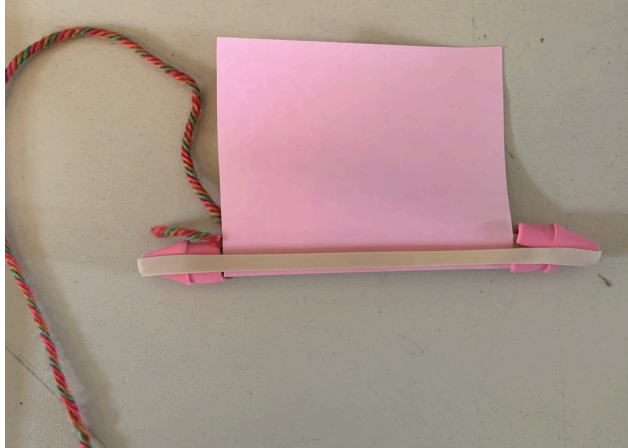




APPALACHIAN FOREST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Hummer Craft - Pollination Teaching Aid



1. Take a popsicle stick. Put a cap eraser on each end.
2. Use scissors to trim an index card about a quarter of the way, so it fits on the popsicle stick.
3. Staple the index card to the popsicle stick.
4. Tie a piece of string to one end of the popsicle stick, right under the cap eraser. Make sure it's secure!
5. Stretch a rubber band lengthwise across the popsicle stick and cap erasers
6. Try it! First, make sure there is no one close by. Holding the end of the string, swing your bee hummer fast in a wide circle. Can you hear the swarm of bees buzzing?

Why does this work? When you spin your bee hummer, moving air makes the rubber band vibrate. The air flowing over the rubber band makes it vibrate the same way that wind blowing over a flag makes it wave. Sound is produced by those vibrations, in the same way that vibrating strings on a guitar or violin produce sound. The index card amplified the sound. If your bee hummer doesn't seem to be working, check to be sure the rubber band isn't twisted, and that the string isn't touching the rubber band. Either of these things could stop the sound!

Did you know? Some bees are buzz pollinators. When a bee lands on a flower and starts to buzz, the buzzing noise creates vibrations that shake the flower and cause it to release its pollen.

Bee Hummer activity courtesy of the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History