

handout

Waggle Dance



Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

What Is This Activity?

How do busy bees “tell” each other where to find pollen?

In this game, you play bees who find “pollen” by doing a dance.

Big Science Idea: Bees and flowers depend on each other to survive and thrive.

Activity Time

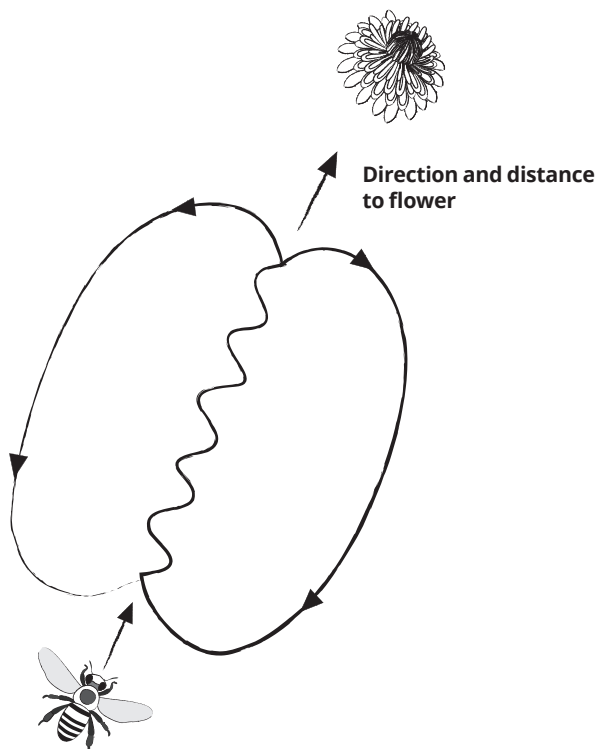
20 minutes

Materials

- Colorful ribbon

How to Play the Waggle Dance Game

1. Find an outdoor area that has trees, bushes, and other places to hide objects—a park or backyard.
2. Practice the Waggle Dance steps together (see art and directions below).
3. Ready? Close your eyes for the count of 10 while your child secretly hides a “flower” (the colored ribbon) in the play area.
4. Your child then returns to you and does the Waggle Dance to tell you how far and in what direction to find the flower.
5. How fast can you find it?
6. If stumped, ask your child to dance again.
7. Repeat the game, switching roles if you like, until you’re champion Waggle Dancers!



How to Do the Waggle Dance

1. The number of “waggles” tells the other bees how far the flowers are. Decide how far away the “flower” (ribbon) is:
Nearby: Do 1 Waggle Dance
Medium: Do 2 Waggle Dances
Far: Do 3 Waggle Dances
2. Face the direction of the flower.
3. Waggle your bottom while walking a few steps.
4. Circle to the right, back to start.
5. Waggle-walk again.
6. Circle to the left, back to start. That’s one waggle dance!

Explore Some More

Go See Bees

Caution: Do not do this activity if your child is allergic to bees.

Where? Visit a local urban beekeeper who gives tours, a zoo or science museum with a beehive on display, or an outdoor public garden with plenty of blossoms. Outdoors, watch the bees calmly from a safe distance. Bees won't sting unless they feel threatened. How long do they stay on a flower? How many flowers do they visit? What color are the flowers? Can you see pollen (yellow powder) stuck to the bees' bodies?

Outdoor Family Fun with Plum App

This app gets families outdoors exploring the world. Every day, the app offers five outdoor missions to get everyone thinking and talking about nature and the science that's all around us.

Plum's Creaturizer App

If you have a smartphone, download Plum's Creaturizer app. You can build imaginary creatures, and then take photos of the creatures outdoors, photobombing them into the scene! Use the app to help your child photograph the creature finding food, water, and shelter in the places you visit.

Find these and more fun resources on pbskids.org/plum.



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