Cheetos Pollinating

About:
Use Cheetos (or Takis) to learn all about how pollination gets transferred from flower to flower

Objective:
To use Social Emotional Development and NGSS informed practices to learn about pollination

Age: 12-18 Expected time: 45 min

Activity
Materials – Paper, markers/crayons, other craft materials as you have it, Cheetos (or Takis)

• Go for a walk and pay special attention to the flowers in your community. What do they look like? What different parts do they have?
• After the walk, create your own flowers. These could just be drawn on the paper, or 3D creations with your other craft materials. Create a garden with at least 2 flowers.
• Wash your hands
• Put a few Cheetos into each of your flowers.
• Take one Cheetos from a flower and eat it. Choose another flower, wipe what Cheetos dust you have on your fingers on this new flower. Take a Cheetos from this flower and repeat.
• Go back and forth until all Cheetos from all the flowers are gone.
• The Cheetos represent the pollen in flowers, and your fingers represents a pollinator like a bee or butterfly moving the pollen from flower to flower.

Wrap UP
• How effective was moving the pollen (Cheetos dust)? Did all the pollen move off your Cheetos or just a bit? Do you think this is like or unlike real life?
• Were all the flowers you found on your walk similar or different? Was there a design that worked better than another? What type of flower would transfer the most pollen?
• There is a surprising amount of things that need pollination in addition to flowers. With an adults permission do a little research about what types of fruit and vegetables needs pollinators. Create an art project about what would happen if we no longer had pollinators to pollinate for us.