

Reproduction Activity Worksheet

1 – Lions

Female lions (lionesses) give birth to 1-4 cubs at a time. Often, many lionesses within a pride will give birth around the same time. They all cooperate in the raising and nursing of the cubs (who nurse from any or all of the females). Cubs are cared for until they are older and are able to mate.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the production of the lion cubs?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?

2 – Bee Orchids

Like many other flowers, the bee orchid reproduces through pollination. Specifically, it relies on attracting bees for pollination. Bees come to the orchid where pollen sticks to them, which is then transferred to the next flower resulting in pollination.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the pollination of bee orchids?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?

3 – Elks

When a male elk is ready to mate, it lets out a loud noise that can be heard for miles. This is known as the elk “bugling”. Female elks *hear* this noise and are attracted to the male elk to mate.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the production of the new elk offspring?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?

4 – Flowers

Many types of flowers reproduce through pollination. In order for pollination to occur, the flower must attract insects. Many flowers use pheromones to lure insects to the flower. The pollen sticks to the insect upon landing and is transferred to the next flower the insect lands on.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the pollination of many flowers?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?

5 – Ruffed Grouse

In spring, when a male ruffed grouse is ready to mate, it sits atop a fallen log and beats its wings very loudly forming a drumming noise. Female ruffed grouses see these actions and are attracted to the males to mate.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the production of the new ruffed grouse offspring?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?

6 – Flies

For flies to reproduce, the male fly has to fertilize the female fly. This results in the female fly laying up to hundreds of *fertilized* eggs at a time.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the production of the newly hatched flies?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?

7 – Goldfish

When mating among goldfish is to occur, the male goldfish will bump and nudge the female goldfish to get her to lay eggs. The female can lay hundreds of *unfertilized* eggs at a time. Upon this happening, the male will fertilize many of the eggs. Those eggs that are fertilized will hatch.

1) What characteristic do you think is present that leads to the production of the newly hatched goldfish?

2) Why do you think this characteristic helps reproduction?
