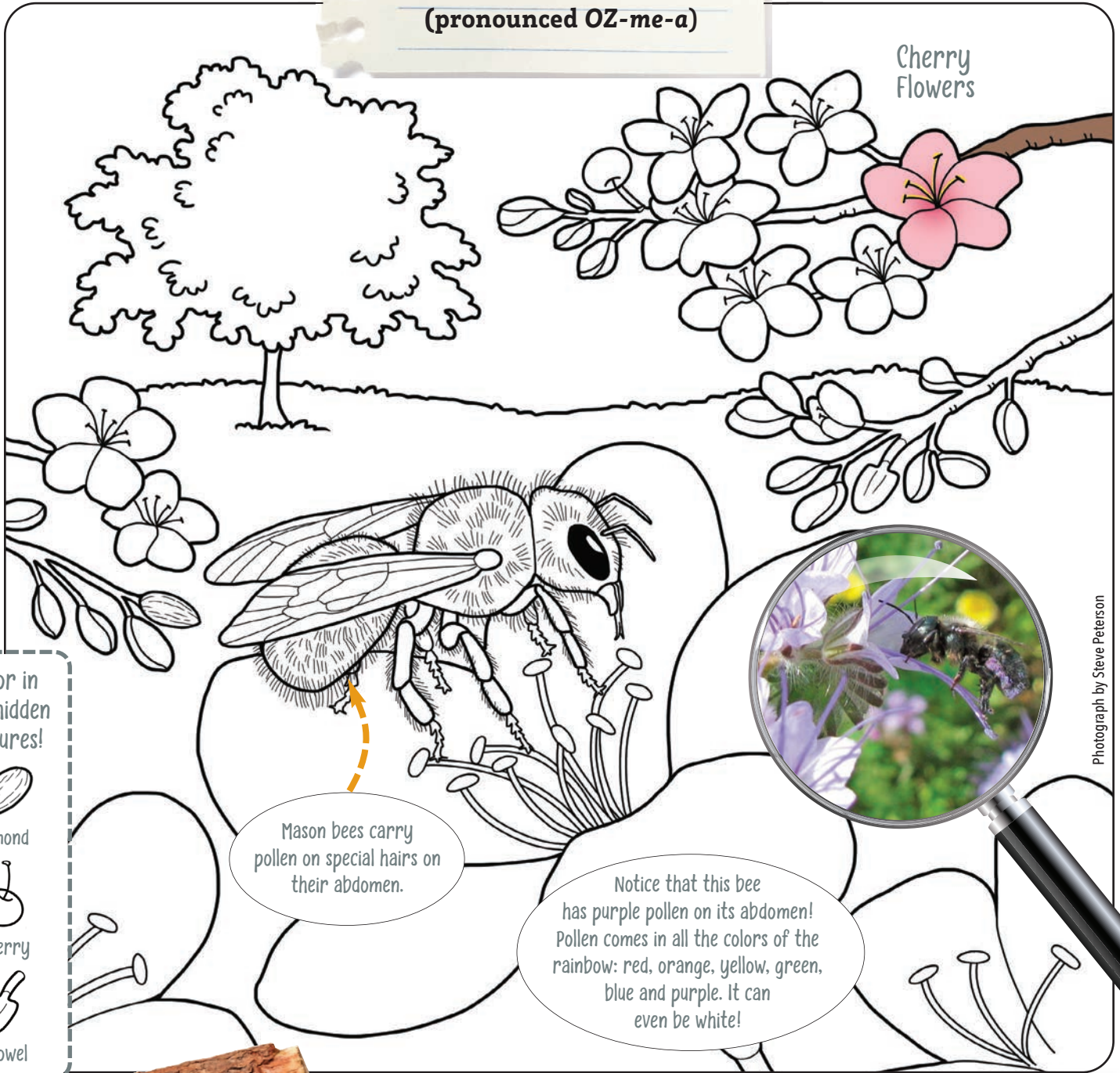




Solitary Bees
Mason Bees
 Genus: *Osmia*
 (pronounced OZ-me-a)



Mason Bee
 6 to 12 mm in length



Photograph by Steve Peterson

Color in the hidden pictures!



Almond



Cherry



Trowel

Mason bees carry pollen on special hairs on their abdomen.

Notice that this bee has purple pollen on its abdomen! Pollen comes in all the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple. It can even be white!

Field Notes:

Some **mason bees** are pollinators of almonds, apples, blueberries, raspberries and cherries, as well as many wild plants. They are called mason bees because they use mud or clay to build their nests, just like a mason. A mason is someone who uses bricks and mortar to build homes and other buildings. They are small to medium-sized bees that are colored in bright metallic blues and greens and sometimes black. In Oregon, they are most often used to pollinate cherries. They work quickly: under some conditions one female mason bee can pollinate three times as many flowers as a single honey bee in the same amount of time.

Color this page online and more at: [FoodHero.org/bees](https://www.foodhero.org/bees)



A trait of this bee is that it is a fast pollinator.
 Name a synonym for fast: