



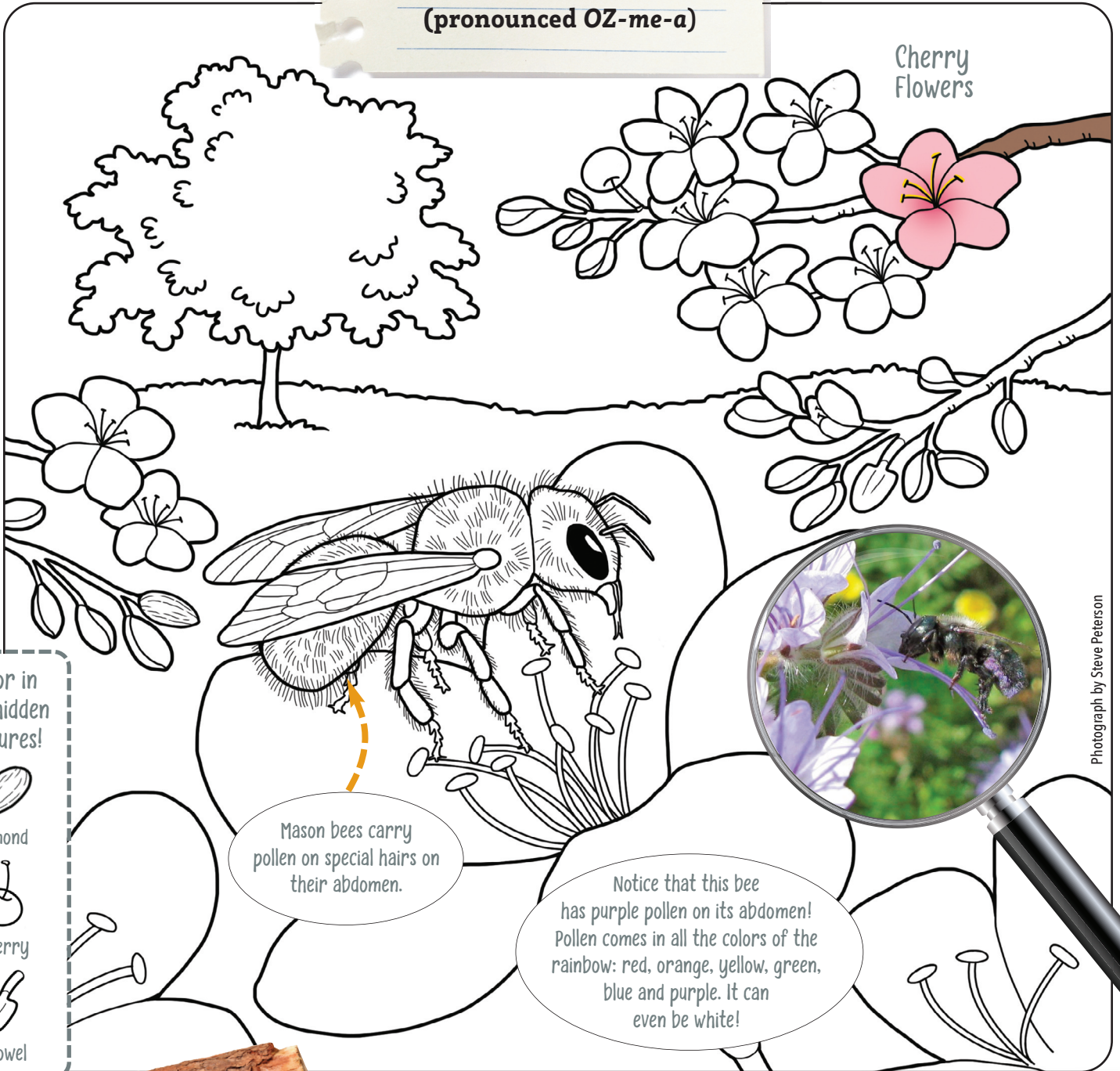
Solitary Bees
Mason Bees
 Genus: *Osmia*
 (pronounced OZ-me-a)



Mason Bee
 6 to 12 mm in length



Cherry
 Flowers



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.

Does the mason bee remind you of another animal? A classmate? Why?



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