

Find the Pollinators!

Fun for preschoolers
and elementary students



This “**from home**” activity is flexible enough to be fun for children of all ages. Older kids can help the youngsters. This activity can be repeated over multiple visits to natural spaces as they change with time, especially in the spring and fall.



Before
you start:
**Some things
to Discover**

WHAT ARE POLLINATORS?

Here's some background information about pollinators to share with youngsters before they go on a pollinator hunt.

There are many different types of pollinators, but they all do the same thing – they are important to the reproduction process of many plants. Pollinators help deliver pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part supporting fertilization – the first step of sexual reproduction for a plant.

Most people think of honeybees when they think of pollinators. But animal pollinators come in all shapes and sizes from small insects like bees, butterflies, beetles and wasps, to birds and bats. Even large animals like bears and deer can help certain types of plants in their reproduction process.

Animals pollinate many plants that we eat including fruit, vegetable and seed crops. However not all plants require pollinators to deliver pollen. Crops like grains, corn and rice are pollinated by the wind blowing pollen from plant to plant. For example, the silky threads that stick out of the top of an ear of young corn are part of the female plant and “catch” the pollen from the male corn plants that is carried in the wind.

Some plants carry both male and female flowers on the same plant, like cucumbers and squash. Other plants only carry female or male flowers, like kiwi and corn.

In Canada, there are more than 1,000 different types of animals that may be pollinators!





Finding Bees, Birds & Butterflies

GO ON A POLLINATOR HUNT:

A pollinator hunt takes a bit of planning but it's also a lot of fun for the whole family!

- ♥ Go out on a warm, sunny day (don't forget the sunscreen).
- ♥ Plan your route – Look for places with lots of flowering plants like a garden, meadow or even a crop farm.
- ♥ Prepare a Pollinator Hunt Record using the template below.
- ♥ Watch each pollinator for 5 – 10 minutes to learn about them and how they pollinate plants.

AFTER YOUR POLLINATOR HUNT:

Discuss these questions together!

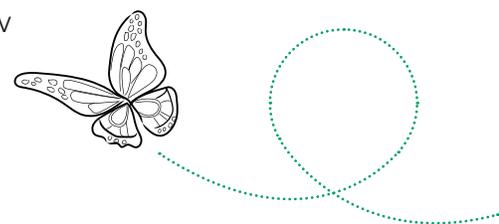
- ♥ What types of pollinators did each of you find?
- ♥ What did the plants do to attract pollinators?
- ♥ What types of fruit, vegetable and seed crops did you find?
- ♥ Why are pollinators important?
- ♥ What would happen if there were no pollinators?
- ♥ What types of fruit, vegetable or seed crops would we no longer have if there were no pollinators?

Celebrate Pollinator Week

Pollinator Week is an annual event in late June. For more information check the Pollinator Partnership Canada website: <https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/>

Since it began in the United States in 2007, Pollinator Week has grown so that now it's celebrated around the world.

Plan to celebrate Pollinator Week in June 2022!



DRAW THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF POLLINATORS YOU FOUND



Draw! Write!
Create!

