

Houston Zoo at Home

POLLINATORS: WORLD BEE DAY

Pollination occurs when pollen is moved within flowers or carried from flower to flower by pollinating animals such as birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, or other animals. The wind can also help flowers pollinate. Animals that help with pollination are called pollinators. Pollinators help plants to grow that give us food like corn, chocolate, sugar, and honey. Even the clothes we wear would be different. Cotton that is used to make a lot of clothing relies on—you guessed it—pollinators.

Sweet Snacks Thanks to Bees!

Ages: 4 and up

In celebration of World Bee Day, go outside and see if you can find any bees buzzing around your home. While you are outside, pull up your iNaturalist app on your phone or tablet and see if you can identify any of the bees that you find. There are 4,000 bees native to North America, and about 700 native bee species in Texas. Now it's time to try out one of our favorite snacks that couldn't be made without bees!

Materials Needed:

- ½ cup honey
- ¾ cup peanut butter (can substitute for allergy free versions like almond butter)
- 3 cups Cheerios

Steps:

1. Line 8x8 inch pan with aluminum foil; set aside.
2. Cook honey and peanut butter over medium heat until completely melted and blended. Be sure to stir often so it doesn't burn!
3. Remove from heat and stir in cereal. Mix until evenly coated.
4. Place mixture in prepared pan and press in place.
5. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.
6. Cut into preferred size and enjoy!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Pollinator Preferences!

Ages: 6 and up

Pollinators have preferences just like you and me! Hummingbirds love red so these colored flowers attract these birds. Bats come out at night so the flowers they pollinate are white to reflect the light of the moon and are very fragrant so that the bats can find them using their sense of smell. What kind of flower or color of flower would you want if you were a pollinator?

Materials Needed:

Construction Paper (color of your choice) OR Flower template (see next page)

Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Various scents from your house

(herbs like garlic, rosemary or mint, perfume or cologne, lotions, body sprays, etc.)

Scissors

Glue stick (optional)

Steps:

1. Think about what YOU like: what is your favorite color? What do you like to eat? What smells do you enjoy?
2. Once you have that list in your head, use the items from above to make your flower. You can cut out a flower shape on the construction paper or you can color the template on the next page.
3. For instance, if your favorite color is purple and you love the smells around Christmas time, you might color the flower purple and then sprinkle cinnamon on it. Or if you love the color orange and the smell of summertime, you might get some orange construction paper, make your flower, and then put some sunscreen lotion on it to make it smell like the summer! Use the glue stick to make items like herbs stick to your flower.
4. Share your flowers with your family. Tell them why you chose to color and scent your flower the way you did. Do you have extra-large petals on your flower, or it is very sweet smelling? Imagine if you were a pollinator and tell your family what your flowers taste like and if they open during the day or nighttime!

Level Up Challenge: Have everyone in your house create their flowers and put them on a table. Then, see if you can go through and guess who made each flower. Do you know your dad's favorite color? How well do you know what your siblings like to smell?

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