



BUZZING BUDDIES

— Exploring the World of Pollinators! —

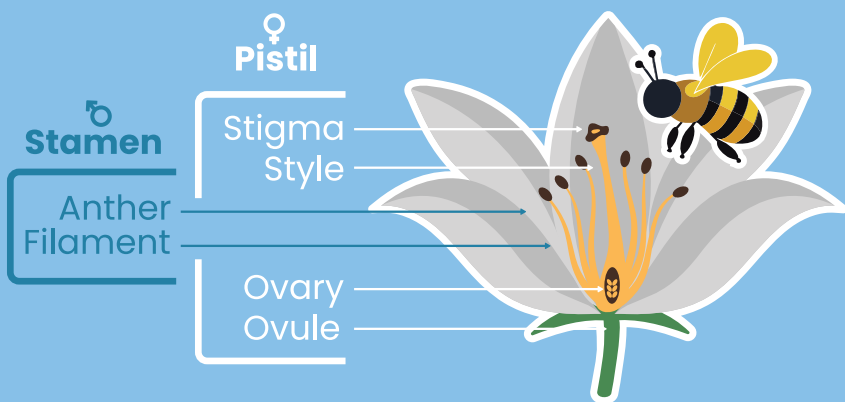
What is a Pollinator?

A pollinator is like a tiny superhero in nature!



They are animals, like bees, butterflies, birds, insects, and even small mammals, that help plants make new seeds and grow more plants. They do this by carrying pollen from one flower to another. Just like how bees buzz from flower to flower collecting nectar, they also pick up and drop off pollen, helping plants make fruits, vegetables, and flowers! So, every time you see a busy bee or a butterfly fluttering around, remember, they're nature's helpers, making sure our world stays healthy, beautiful, and full of food!

The Anatomy of a Flower



Pistil: The female reproductive organ of a flowering plant

Stamen: The male reproductive organ of a flowering plant

Stigma: Sticky part of the pistil that captures pollen.

Style: Stalk that supports the stigma.

Ovary: Pouch that holds the ovule.

Ovule: Plant structure that develops into a seed when fertilized.

Anther: Pod on top of the stamen which makes pollen.

Filament: Stalk of the stamen.

While we love all flowers, some plants are particularly alluring and useful to our pollinator friends. Take a look at some pollinator superstars below!



Milkweed



Sunflower



Black Eyed Susan



Blanket Flower



Lavender

Can you be a Pollinator?



The answer is yes, you can!

Sometimes just a light shake of the plant can get the job done. If you want a more thorough and fun way, you can use your finger or a small paint brush to spread that pollen around, jumping from flower to flower.

- 1) Find a male flower with a stamen and a female flower with a pistil (see Flower Anatomy Chart for reference).
- 2) Gently gather pollen from the male flower's stamen with a paint brush or your finger and brush or shake it onto the female flower's stigma.
- 3) Congratulations, you are now a pollinator!



Pollinator Word Search!

F	O	P	M	Z	C	A	R	P	E	L	G
C	G	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	N	H	L
B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	I	E	S	A
I	P	O	L	L	E	N	W	Z	G	Z	X
A	S	T	A	M	E	N	T	Y	J	R	S
B	E	E	S	S	D	H	H	V	U	W	Y
P	O	L	L	I	N	A	T	E	G	D	N
K	Z	K	S	E	E	D	S	G	O	N	U

WORD BANK

Bees
Butterflies
Carpel
Flowers
Pollen
Pollinate
Seeds
Stamen



Did You Know?

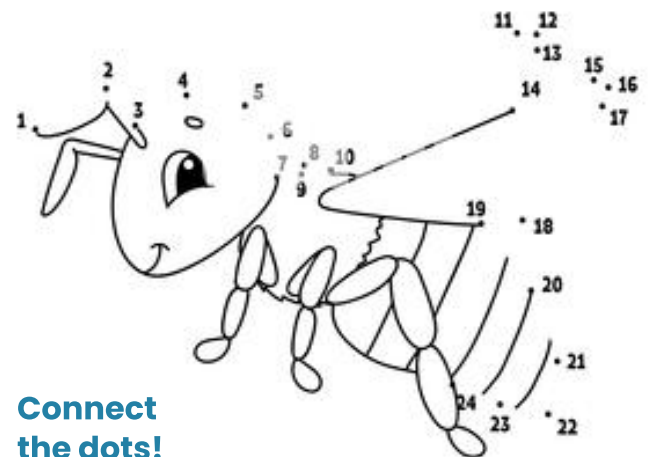
There are **1,400** types of crops grown worldwide that provide **all** of our **plant-based food** products.



Among these, **80%** rely on pollinators in order to **survive and thrive**.

Presenting...Bee Bags!

Fun facts! A single bee can bring back a pollen load that weighs about **35% of the bee's body weight**. Bees carry this pollen on their hind legs on specialized structures commonly called "**pollen baskets**," or **corbicula**.



Connect the dots!



EnviroKids!
Educational Tools for Tomorrow's Environmental Heroes

EnviroKids is a collaborative effort among multiple environmentally focused agencies in the Spokane region working to provide locally relevant educational resources to teachers and families.