

Wild Families



Pretty Pollinators

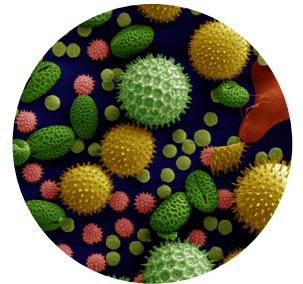
VNPA ACTIVITY SHEET

POLLEN is tiny, powdery and made by flowers to help them reproduce.

POLLINATION is when pollen is moved from one flower to another to help a plant make a seed.

POLLINATORS are animals, usually insects, that move pollen from flower to flower.

Bees, wasps, flies, ants, sawflies, butterflies, moths and beetles are all types of insect pollinators. Some birds and small mammals like Grey-headed Flying Foxes are also pollinators. Pollination can also be done by wind and water.



POLLEN UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Go searching for insect pollinators

TIPS FOR FINDING INSECT POLLINATORS ON A WALK IN THE FOREST, AROUND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR IN YOUR GARDEN.



1 Look for flowers on a sunny day ☀️ The flowers might be near the ground, or higher up in a shrub or tree.




2 Stop and watch for a while 👁️ Get up close; some pollinators are very small!



3 Make sure to stay still so you don't scare anyone off! 🙅



5 Find new flowers and start again! If you don't see any pollinators on your first flower 🌸 don't worry. See if you can find some on the next one.



4 Can you work out what types of pollinators you saw? Were they bees, wasps, flies, ants, butterflies, moths or beetles? 🐛

Without pollinators, many plants in forests and grasslands wouldn't exist.

What we like

- ✓ We live in many places including forests, parks, grasslands and even in your garden.
- ✓ We nest in many different places: bare soil, leaf litter, stone walls, holes in wood and under leaves.
- ✓ We need places to hide and sleep, like shrubs and grasses.

What you can do!

- ✓ Plant native shrubs, flowers and grasses that bloom at different times of year. That way we will always have snacks, homes and hiding places.
- ✓ Add nesting areas to your garden, like insect hotels and logs.
- ✓ Don't prune all the dead stems off your plants and leave some areas of bare ground. We love patches of leaf litter!




Some bees buzz inside the flower to make the pollen shoot out.











POLLEN FACTS

Safety tip
Don't reach out to touch pollinators. Some can bite and sting. Or you might accidentally scare them away or hurt them.

IMAGES: MEGHAN LINDSAY

Play the pollinator and plant game!

Some pollinators prefer to visit certain flowers or lay their eggs on specific plants. Can you match the pollinators with their favourite plants?

POLLINATORS PLANTS

Hints

- **Blue-banded Bees** eat yummy nectar from flowers. They're fond of blue and purple flowers.
- **Orchid Dupe Wasps** are well named. The males get tricked into visiting particular types of flowers because they mistake the flower for a female wasp.

- **Swordgrass Brown** caterpillars are fussy eaters. They like eating a certain type of tufted plant.
- **Green Grass-dart Butterfly** caterpillars are also fussy. They like to munch on different types of grasses.
- **Spotted Flower Chafer Beetles** love feeding on the tasty nectar of eucalypt trees and a particular type of shrub.

ANSWERS UPSIDE-DOWN BELOW



There are 10,000 different types of butterflies and moths in Australia!

Almost 90% of all flowering plants depend on animals to help pollinate them.

Riddle me this!

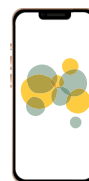
I flit and buzz from bloom to bloom
 Collecting pollen watch me zoom
 I'm not a beetle or a butterfly in flight
 I visit flowers all day but not at night
 I wear stripes of blue upon my bum
 In forests and meadows you'll hear me hum
 In your garden you might see
 This small pollinator can you guess me?

Bee-come a citizen scientist!



Take photos of us and upload them to the iNaturalist app. This helps nature-lovers, scientists and land managers learn more about us. It's easy and fun to use!

inaturalist.org



Learn how to identify us and take part in the Australian Pollinator Count - the census for pollinators that happens every November.

australianpollinatorweek.org.au

Download all our Wild Families activity sheets
vnpa.org.au/wild-families



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Flowers often smell nice or look bright and colourful to attract pollinators. Sometimes they offer delicious nectar rewards.

Pollinators help pollinate many of the plants we eat.