



Lesson Plan – Pollinator Presentations & Scavenger Hunt

Students will learn about the diverse array of pollinators that live in their communities.

They will conduct research and present team reports on several types of pollinators and their habitats, as well as on the variety of wildflowers included in the seed packets from **Project Plant It!**

Following the presentations, they also will participate in a fun outdoor scavenger hunt to identify pollinators, habitats, and wildflowers that can be found on their school grounds, in nearby parks, and in their own backyards.

Materials Needed:

Pollinator Scavenger Hunt worksheet, access to computers for online research or to books/reference materials, instructions on how to use Google Slides or another collaborative website for team presentations, writing and drawing materials

Time:

One or two science class periods to conduct team research; one or two science class periods to enjoy a “field trip” outside on the school grounds to look for items on the scavenger hunt worksheet; one or two science class periods for team presentations.

Note to educators and group leaders: You may allocate as many science class periods as needed for this lesson plan, especially if several outdoor excursions are planned. Timing is based on the assumption that a science class period is approximately 30 minutes.

Procedure:

Introduce this lesson by asking students if they know why pollination is important and if they can name some different types of pollinators, including insects, birds, and mammals. After students give responses and are encouraged to share ideas, they are told that they will be exploring the world of pollinators through research, team presentations, and an outdoor activity.

Part I: Research and team presentations on pollinators

Divide students in teams (approx. 3-4 students per team) and pass out copies of the Pollinator Scavenger Hunt worksheet. Have teams pick a pollinator from the worksheet or assign a pollinator to each team. If a team would like to research a pollinator that is not on the worksheet, that’s fine! Ask teams to conduct online research and create a short presentation, using Google Slides or another collaborative website, on the following aspects of their pollinator:

- What is the life cycle of this pollinator?
- Where can this pollinator be found in the U.S.?
- Does the pollinator have any distinguishing physical aspects that aid in the pollination process?
- What types of flowers or plants will attract this pollinator?
- Describe the ideal habitat for this pollinator, including where it lives, where it finds food and water, what are its natural predators, etc.
- Is this pollinator endangered? If so, why? What can students do to protect this pollinator?

For bonus credit, students can research details on the wildflowers that are included in the pollinator seed mix provided by **Project Plant It!** This would help them be more familiar with the appearance and features of the varied sources of nectar that will attract bees and other pollinators.

Teams make presentations on their pollinator. If desired, teams can create a short quiz for the other teams to test their knowledge of the pollinator following a presentation.

Part II: Outdoor pollinator scavenger hunt

- Educators or group leaders will arrange for students to participate in a pollinator scavenger hunt—an outdoor activity to search for pollinators in the community.
- Each student will be provided with a copy of the Pollinator Scavenger Hunt worksheet and a pencil.
- Students can walk around the school grounds with their teacher and/or they can take the worksheet home to look for pollinators in their yards or in a nearby park.
- Students will check off the pollinators, habitats, and wildflowers as they are identified, with a goal to check off as many items as possible in a given period of time.

Outcome/Result:

Students will appreciate the diversity of pollinators in nature and will have a better understanding of the role that pollinators play in environmental sustainability.

The Project Plant It! Wildflower Seed Mix includes:

Chinese Forget-Me-Not, Purple Coneflower, California Poppy, Blue Flax, Lance-Leaved Coreopsis, Annual Baby's Breath, Corn Poppy, Crimson Clover, Siberian Wallflower, Claspig Coneflower, Indian Blanket, Baby Blue-Eyes, China Aster, Plains Coreopsis, Sweet Alyssum, Lavender Hyssop, Bergamot, Globe Gilia, New England Aster

Note: There are other examples of pollinators and other examples of wildflowers that attract pollinators; students are welcome to research and identify as many as they can.



Sponsored by Dominion Energy, one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, **Project Plant It!** is a community effort to educate students, plant trees and wildflowers, and improve the environment.



Pollinator Scavenger Hunt

Instructions:

Look for these pollinators, habitats, and wildflowers in your community. Explore your school grounds, a nearby park, or your own backyard. Put a check in the box when you see each thing that is pictured. There's even an empty box in each column where you can add more pollinators, habitats and wildflowers that you discover!

Pollinators	
Honeybee <input type="checkbox"/>	
Moth <input type="checkbox"/>	
Bat <input type="checkbox"/>	
Butterfly <input type="checkbox"/>	
Wasp <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hummingbird <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Habitats	
Hole in tree <input type="checkbox"/>	
Tall grasses <input type="checkbox"/>	
Clusters of flowers <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fallen trees <input type="checkbox"/>	
Water source <input type="checkbox"/>	
Soil <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Wildflowers	
Purple Coneflower <input type="checkbox"/>	
Blue Flax <input type="checkbox"/>	
Annual Baby's Breath <input type="checkbox"/>	
Corn Poppy <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sweet Alyssum <input type="checkbox"/>	
Lavender Hyssop <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	