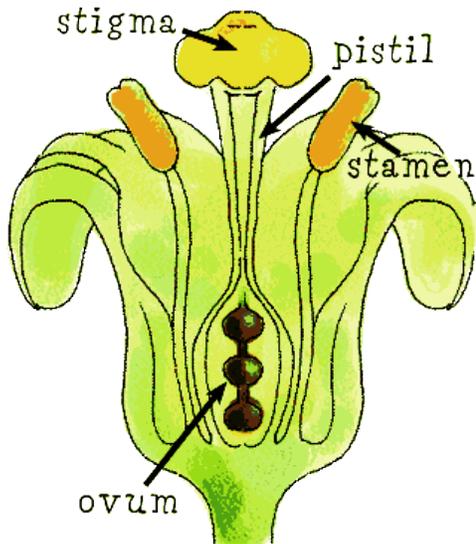




Pollination Power



A Reputation for Pollination

Flowers produce a powder-like material called **pollen**. For a **seed** to develop inside the plant, a flower needs pollen from another flower to travel from the **stamen** to the **stigma**. This can happen by wind, water or by animals called **pollinators**. Pollinators eat the sweet pollen and travel from plant to plant, spreading extra pollen. This process is called **pollination**, it is how plants reproduce and make fruit. Pollination is important for entire **food chains**, not just plants.

#1 Pollination Appreciation: Wind Power

Without pollinators, all plants would need the wind and rain for pollination. Challenge your friends and family to appreciation pollination !

You'll need to collect a handful of seeds, anything from acorns to pinecones to fluffy cattail seeds.

Decorate a shallow bowl with paper flower petals on the edges and make it your *finish line* several feet away. Place the seeds in a line on the ground, this will be your *start line*.

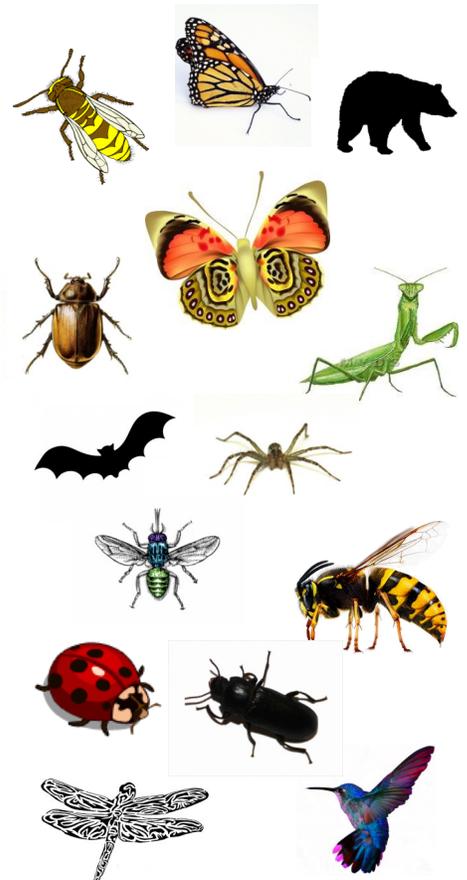
Pretend your seeds are pollen. Count down, then race to get your pollen into the bowl with your *wind power*; you'll have to blow the pollen!

Does wind power take more time and energy?

Do you have an appreciation for pollinators?

Be sure to thank a pollinator for your favorite fruit!

Who is not a pollinator?



#2 Build a Bee-utiful Home

There are over 100 species of **solitary bees** (they don't live in a hive). Solitary bees rarely sting because they don't protect a queen. Their number one priority is finding food... and pollinating!

Help promote biodiversity by giving solitary bee's eggs a safe place to develop, a bee box! You'll need pipe cleaner or string and 6" pieces of hollow stemmed reeds. (Phragmites is perfect! See Invasive Species activity)

1. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the reeds and tie securely.
2. Hang the bee box in a visible place. It's that easy!
3. Monitor to see if a pollinator has laid eggs there. You'll be able to see by plugged appearance at the end of the reeds. It can take months for the **larvae** to come out!
4. Try different materials and locations to see if the bees like some more!



#3 Build a Butterfly Buffet

Having pollinator-friendly plants is the best way to attract pollinators. You can invite visiting pollinators and encourage them to stay by providing food. In your kit, you have pieces to assemble a **butterfly feeding flower**. Don't forget, caterpillars eat leaves, not pollen, its important to leave them food too!

1. Place the foam flower over the neck of the bottle and press the bottle through the slit in the centre of the flower. Push the triangular flaps down to the body of the bottle.
2. Add warm water to the food crystals in the bottle, put the cap on, and shake to mix.
3. Fringe the ends of the red felt with scissors. Roll the felt up and insert partway into the bottle so the fringe tips stick out.
4. Wrap the green paper around the bottle.
5. Place the flower near a sunny garden or window to observe pollination.
6. Upload photos on gbr.ca!

