



How many pollinators do you see outside?

Activity: A Day in the Life of a Pollinator

Learning Objective: Help youth understand the role of pollinators.

Service Objective: Invite youth to identify what they can do to create a more welcoming environment for pollinators at their home or school.

Activity Instructions

1. Opening prompts: Ask youth to think about flowers and pollinators. Pollinators include: bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds and bats.
2. Either individually, in pairs, or small groups (of 3 to 4), have youth think about what it would be like to live a day in the life of one of the pollinators.
3. Invite youth to use their imagination and create a story about their pollinator. Storytelling comes in many forms and youth can select which they want to use! Some include: short story, poem, song, drawing, story board, poster, speech, film, or dance.
Imagine you are a pollinator, ask yourself:
 - Where do you live? Where do you grow? What do you do everyday?
 - What do you see, hear, and feel? Where do you want to go?
 - What do you want to be when you grow up?
4. Ask youth to share their story with the class.
5. As a class, have youth process and generalize what they've learned. For example, in small groups, have youth discuss which pollinators they typically see in their school or neighborhood. Then ask what they can do to attract more pollinators.

Taking it Further

- **For young youth:** Invite children to share their story with their families.
- **For older youth:** Ask each group to discuss how pollinators, flowers, and agriculture relate to California. For example, the economics and history of farming, social and political connections, biology and ecology, health and nutrition.
- Link this activity to the food and water activities. Invite small groups to discuss connections between water, pollinators, and food. Have groups present to the class.

Time: 20-30 minutes

Materials

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- Any other materials to aid in the creative process; for example:
 - Construction paper
 - Markers
 - Poster board or flip chart paper
 - Music
- Pictures of pollinators may be helpful (Bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds and bats), available from http://100.ucanr.edu/Day_of_Science_and_Service/Pollinators/

Preparation

None

Connections to the Next Generation

Science Standards: LS2.A:
Interdependent relationships in ecosystems.

On May 8: Be a Scientist!

Ask youth to go outside and count the number of pollinators they see in 3-minutes. Record answers from youth and submit using the on-line map at beascientist.ucanr.edu. Share with youth what others are reporting from across the entire state!



"Day in the Life" idea adapted from *Serving Up MyPlate*, USDA 2012.

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