



Pollinator Journaling

Pollinators play a very important role in the world's various ecosystems. Our planet would look extraordinarily different without the more than 200 000 different species of pollinators that call Earth their home. In Canada alone, there are over 1000 animals that pollinate plants. Are you ready to record and keep track of the pollinators in your neighbourhood?



What You Need:

- A journal of some kind
- A writing/drawing utensil
- Time

Here is an example DIY journal. You can make it out of paper, construction paper, or another material of your choosing.

Fun fact: Different pollinators are active at different times of day and different times of year. For example, bumblebees are most likely to be seen in mid-summer to early fall, while red-blue checkered beetles are busy pollinating during spring to early summer.

What You Do:

1 PLAN AND PREPARE.

Begin by researching pollinators in your area and what they look like. You can also learn about their typical habitats and when they are most active to decide where and when to visit.

2 OBSERVE.

With your journal and a writing utensil, take a trip to a nearby green space, using what was learned to choose a spot to observe. Be prepared to spend some time watching and waiting.

3 RECORD.

Take notes and/or draw pictures in your journal of the pollinators you see (example). Details can include: type of animal, flowers visited, and duration of visit. Also take notes about temperature, sunlight, and the environment (eg. noise)



If possible, choose an area with plenty of blooming flowers arranged in large groupings.

4 REPEAT.

To truly learn about the pollinators you observe, you'll want to visit the same and different sites multiple times. You can then compare your journal entries from each to find patterns and draw conclusions about the pollinators near you!

Remember: When observing, you are visiting their habitat. You can use sight, sound, and smell, but please don't touch or taste. Leave no trace.

