

REFLECT: How can I help local pollinators?

Essential Question:

How can I help local pollinators?

At a Glance:

Learners reflect on the importance of local pollinators and plan how they can help local pollinators through a stewardship or service learning project.

Background Information:

Learners have discovered a vast amount of information about the Pollination Department and its workers while completing this module. They now know the importance of Earth's pollinators and the need to protect them and safeguard or restore their habitats. Pollinators not only keep the world beautiful by helping flowers reproduce, but also provide a service that supports food production for humans and other animals. Threats to the Pollination Department include pesticides, herbicides, and loss of habitat. There are many stewardship activities that can be conducted to help the Pollination Department.

Procedure:

1. Briefly reflect on the topics discussed in the pollination module. Ask learners what their favorite activity was.
2. Ask students if they remember the threats to the Pollination Department. *What can we do to help Earth's pollinators? What can we do on our own school site?*
3. Help learners come up with their own ideas on how to help pollinators on the school site and at home. Discuss a stewardship plan for your GEN club. The Permaculture section of the GEN manual has ideas for an *Instant Garden* or *Keyhole Garden* are great starting places for a pollinator garden. Your club may also want to develop an educational campaign on how to protect pollinators to display or present to other students and/or parents. Lesson 5 of the pollination module describes a Citizen Science project that allows learners to participate in a large-scale pollinator research program.

Stewardship activities are not limited to those mentioned above. Allow learners to be creative and take ownership of their pollination stewardship project. Additional information on what can be done to help the Pollination Department is stated below.

Protect the Pollinators

Plant host and nectar plants for local pollinators.

Don't use pesticides and herbicides.

Put out hummingbird feeders.

Only plant native species in your garden. No invasive plants, please!

Be careful not to mow or cut wildflowers or other plants that may be a habitat for a pollinator.

Location: classroom

Objectives: *Learners will*
1) discuss ways they can help restore and protect local and global pollinators.

Skills: reflection, science, geography

Supplies: dependent on project

Subjects: science

Time: 10-15 min

Start digging in the dirt!

Here's a list of plants that pollinators just love! Try planting these in your garden at home or school and get ready for the pollinators!

- **Butterflies**
 - Swamp milkweed
 - Aster
 - Thistle
 - Daisy
 - Purple coneflower
- **Bees**
 - Marigold
 - Daisy
 - Aromatic herbs
- **Hummingbirds**
 - Cardinal flower
 - Bee balm
 - Century plant
 - Honeysuckle
 - Sage
- **Beetles**
 - Rose
 - Aster
 - Sunflower
- **Caterpillar Host plants**
 - Fennel (Swallowtails)
 - Thistle (Painted lady)
 - Milkweed (Monarch)
 - Plantain (Buckeye)

Discussion/Assessment:

Why are pollinators important?

What are some threats to Earth's pollinators?

What can we do, locally and globally, to help the Pollination Department?