

Pollinator Day: Pollinator-Palooza



This activity will get you moving as you experience the role of a pollinator firsthand.

Age: Families with children 6 and older

Gather your Gear

- Printed pictures of Georgia native flowers
 - Alternative: Draw your own flowers!
- Different colored small pom pom fuzz balls
 - Alternative #1: Dyed or colored cotton balls
 - Alternative #2: Different colored construction paper torn in small pieces and balled up
- Scotch tape

Get Ready *Get your family thinking about the activity before you start.*

- What is *pollination*?
 - Pollination occurs when pollen moves within flowers or is moved from flower to flower by different pollinator species or by the wind.
- Name different pollinator species!
 - Examples: Honey bees, bumble bees, wasps (accidental pollinators), hummingbirds, bats
- Pollinators are important to our ecosystem and help provide food that many of us eat every day.
- Bees and other pollinators provide around 35% of the food we eat today—or about one in three bites of food.
- Not all bees are well suited to pollinate every flower. Today, there are 20,000 different species of bees that are grouped by their tongue size (small, medium, and long). The length of their tongue determines which type of flowers a bee can drink nectar from.

Bee the Pollinator

Set-up:

- Choose a room or mark off an area outside that is safe to move around in.
- Place four to six pictures of the Georgia native flowers around the space.
- Collect your pom pom balls or alternative. These represent pollen.
- Place 10 or more pieces of pollen on each flower. The pollen on a flower should start off as one color. Each flower should have a different color than the others.
- Optional: Gear up all players with a scotch tape bracelet (sticky side out) on each wrist.

How to Play:

- Players will run or walk between each of the flowers for a pre-determined set of time (**two to five minutes** recommended).
- At the first flower, players will use the bracelet made of tape or their hands to pick up the pollen.
- After the first flower, players will move from flower to flower. Remove or drop the previously collected pollen and pick up new pollen. Players can only stay at each flower for 10 seconds before moving to the next flower.
- The Pollinator-Palooza ends when time runs out. Players should inspect each flower to observe how the pollen moved around.

Recap *Have a conversation about what you learned and questions your family may have.*

- How did the pollen spread around the flowers?

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- Why do you think pollinators are important?

Relate *Create connections to the idea through activities.*

Pollinators are under threat due to habitat loss. Discuss creating a pollinator garden in your yard, on your deck, or on your porch. Check out this website to discover what plants are best for Georgia pollinators:

<https://ugaurbanag.com/pollinator-plant-list/>

It takes a team.... join ours: Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both are so important. If your family members are on social media, post pictures of your pollen covered flowers and use the hashtags #PollinatorDay and #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- To learn more about what you can do to help pollinators, as well as what Zoo Atlanta is doing, visit our Project Pollinator page at <https://zooatlanta.org/project/project-pollinator/>

Georgia Native Pollinator Flowers:



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Asters



Golden Rod Flower

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Mexican Sunflower

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Milkweed

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Purple Coneflower

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Spiderwort



Sunflower