

Activity 5: Crazy for Pollinators!

45 - 60 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will explain what a pollinator is and its importance.
- Students will design a mythical pollinator and explain its role in pollination.

NGSS or Common Core Standards addressed:

2-LS2-2. Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.

K-2-ETS1-2. Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.

The Pillar of Ag Lit it relates to:

The Relationship Between Agriculture and Animals

Materials:

- Variety of materials for creating, including (but not limited to) construction paper, recycled materials (boxes, egg cartons, etc.), pipe cleaners, string, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Writing/drawing utensils

Procedures:

1. Prior to the lesson, preview the video to understand the content and approve it for the students. If you want, create a model mythical pollinator to spark creativity for the students.
2. Read the book "How to Grow a Monster." After reading, ask students "What is pollination?" Collect answers from the class. Use the information on pages 12 – 13 to help guide discussion.
3. Watch the 5-minute SciShow Kids video on plant pollinators: <https://youtu.be/pnBoM4idf1k>. After the video, review common pollinators (butterfly, bees, birds, bats) and how they move pollen from plant to plant.
4. Tell students that they get to design their very own pollinator! Show them the teacher model and/or explain how they will use the materials to create a mythical pollinator. Allow students time to create.
5. Once the class has finished in the allotted time, gather the group and allow students to share about their pollinators and how they help move pollen from one plant to another.

Optional extension for all grades:

- Have each student write a narrative or record a video about their pollinator, explaining how they help move pollen from one plant to another. Display or share with others.
- Individually or in small groups, have students play "The Buzz," a My American Farm game that relates to the pollinators in the lesson. Link: <http://www.myamericanfarm.org/games/the-buzz>