

RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA



Activity Plan Part 1

Experiencing Nature Pollinator Detectives

*Resources created by the Scottish Wildlife Trust in partnership with
the Royal Scottish National Orchestra*

Contents

- 4 **Activity 1: Pollinator Profile**
- 8 **Activity 2: Following the Buzz...**
- 15 **Activity 3: Food thanks to Pollinators**



General information for teachers and parents:

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is Scotland's leading nature conservation charity.

These worksheets, provided by the Scottish Wildlife Trust for *Once Upon a Tune*, aim to encourage children to learn more about pollinators, plants, and their conservation. They involve various aspects of nature discovery and play, encouraging children to connect with the natural world.

Spending time outside and learning about how living things depend on each other is important when re-establishing our connection to nature. It also has many benefits for children, who are naturally curious about the world around them. Spending time in nature can improve health, reduce stress, increase confidence, and many other amazing things!

There are three activities within this pack which each have corresponding resources that can be used to support learning and teaching. The suggested age range for these resources is P1 – P7 although the activities can be adapted for older and younger learners. Please amend the resources to suit your own needs and that of your pupils/children. If using the resources within the home, you could encourage older siblings and family members to support the younger children to join in with all activities.

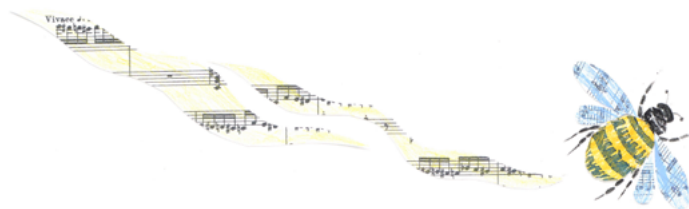


Experiencing Nature Pollinator Detectives

A pollinator is an insect or other animal that transfers pollen from one plant to another, allowing them to produce fruit and seed. Plants attract pollinators to them through colour, scent and shape – this is why many look and smell good! More than 1,500 insect species are known to pollinate plants in the UK.

Pollinators are very important as they pollinate over 70% of our global food crops. In fact, it's estimated that pollinators contribute £1.8bn to the UK's farming economy every year by performing their normal pollination service. That's nature working for us in a big way!

This section is all about learning and experiencing the world of pollinators, with a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities to try.



Activity 1: Pollinator Profile

Information for teachers and parents:

Insect pollinators play a key role in our ecosystem, by pollinating lots of our plants, trees, wildflowers and crops. A lot of these creatures are unsung heroes and we often don't realise the scale at which we rely on them. You might already be familiar with bees and butterflies, but did you know that many flies, beetles, moths and bugs are also important pollinators? As a class, take a deep dive into the world of pollinators and discover the vast nature of them.

Curriculum: Languages, Science, Expressive Arts

Description: There are so many different pollinating insects out there, from bees to flies to beetles! Choose a pollinator of your choice to complete your profile on. For example, this could be the marmalade hoverfly, peacock butterfly, or tree bumblebee. There are lots of cool species out there to choose from. Share your discovery with your class and have a look at the species they have picked too!

Resources needed:

- Worksheet
- Pens/pencils
- Access to internet (or related books)



Instructions:

1. Print out the worksheet below, ensuring each child has their own copy.
2. Talk to the class about pollination. What does a pollinator do? Who are pollinators?
3. Ask the class to choose a pollinator to write a fact profile on.
4. Ask them to do their research online (or with related books) and fill out the worksheet.
5. <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates> is a good place to start!
6. Ask them to present their findings to the class or a smaller group.



Choose your pollinator and use your detective skills to find out information for your Pollinator Profile below



What is my name?

Where do I live?

What time of year can you spot me?

What do I eat?

A fun fact about me!

Draw me!



Task

There are many insect pollinators, from bees to butterflies. But there are also lots of different species of each. For example, there are 59 different butterflies in the UK that vary in size, pattern and colour!

Can you find some of them in the wordsearch below?



- Brimstone**
- Comma**
- Common Blue**
- Gatekeeper**
- Large White**
- Orange Tip**
- Painted Lady**
- Peacock**
- Red Admiral**
- Ringlet**
- Swallowtail**
- Wall Brown**

Butterflies Wordsearch

A	L	N	R	Q	O	W	A	L	S	B	T	L	G
P	G	A	T	E	K	E	E	P	E	R	Y	I	E
E	W	P	R	R	E	D	A	F	M	I	R	A	T
X	G	E	Y	G	D	Z	D	O	T	M	A	T	R
L	U	A	E	T	O	U	E	S	H	S	D	W	I
I	L	C	V	F	R	W	H	Y	V	T	H	O	N
R	B	O	N	D	E	B	R	C	N	O	R	L	Q
R	N	K	L	S	R	R	R	E	I	K	P	L	L
I	O	R	A	N	G	E	E	T	W	P	E	O	C
N	M	J	I	J	T	Y	O	O	Q	W	F	S	V
G	M	W	A	L	L	B	R	O	W	W	N	M	U
L	O	B	Y	D	A	L	D	E	T	G	I	X	P
E	C	U	G	E	T	P	Y	Z	O	O	S	A	O
T	K	C	X	O	I	O	F	C	C	O	M	A	K



Activity 2: Following the Buzz...

Information for teachers and parents:

Getting outdoors in nature can bring us many health and wellbeing benefits. Plus, it is a great way for us to connect to the natural world and experience our local wildlife. Here are a few activities you can do to compliment your walks outdoors.

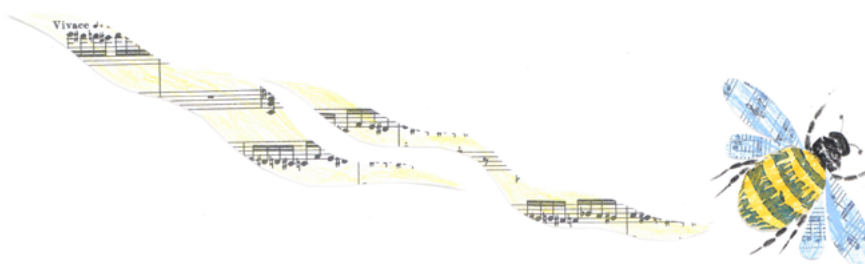
Curriculum: Health and Wellbeing, Science, Languages, Mathematics

Description: The natural world is full of amazing and beautiful things that you can explore by going on a walk. Head outdoors and try to spot some of our insect pollinators. Perhaps you will find some buzzing busily around a flower patch. Here are some fun activities you can do on your nature walks:

1. See how many pollinators and plants you can spot on your walk. Remember to stay quiet so not to scare them all away! Perhaps you can hear them buzzing? Or see all the yellow pollen they have been collecting on their legs? Use our **Spotter Worksheets** to see how many you can tick off.
2. Step into the shoes of a biologist and complete a survey on your walk. When you spot an insect, add a tally to your survey. Remember to take a closer look – some of our pollinators are really small! Once you are finished, count how many you found in total. Was there a pollinator you saw more than the rest? Did you have a favourite you spotted?
3. Become more mindful of the things around you by using a journal to record and reflect on the things you experienced on your walk. Use this journal template to record your sensory experiences whilst outside. Whilst we shouldn't use our tongue to taste things when we are outside, we can use all the other senses to explore our surroundings.

Resources needed:

- Worksheets
- Pens/pencils
- Clipboards
- Magnifying glasses (optional)
- Bug pots (optional)






Bee detective



 Buff-tailed bumblebee	 Early bumblebee	 Garden bumblebee	 Red-tailed bumblebee	 White-tailed bumblebee
 Common carder bee	 Tawny mining bee	 Hairy-footed flower bee	 Leaf-cutter bee	 Honey bee

Illustrations by Helen Wadsh




Summer flower spotter wildlife watch

				
Meadow buttercup	Foxglove	Poppy	Tufted vetch	Cow parsley
				
Teasel	Yellow iris	Toadflax	Herb robert	Red campion



www.wildlifewatch.org.uk Image credits: Meadow buttercup, Teasel, and Yellow iris (c) Richard Burkmar / Foxglove, Cow parsley, Toadflax and Herb robert (c) Philip Precey / Poppy (c) Amy Lewis / Tufted vetch (c) Neil Wyatt / Red campion (c) Paul Lane

Butterfly detective



	<p>Peacock</p>		<p>Brimstone</p>		<p>Comma</p>		<p>Orange-tip</p>		<p>Green-veined white</p>		<p>Holly blue</p>		<p>Small tortoiseshell</p>		<p>Painted lady</p>		<p>Red admiral</p>		<p>Gatekeeper</p>
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Day-flying moths

				
Cinnabar	Forester	Clouded buff	Speckled yellow	Silver Y
				
Orange underwing	Burnet Companion	Common heath	Six-spot burnet	

Be a Biologist

Today you are going to be a field biologist! Tally up the number of insects you spot as you explore outdoors. Once you are finished, count how many you found in total.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pollinator	Tally	Final Total
Honey bee		
Solitary bee		
Bumblebee		
Moth		
Butterfly		
Hoverfly		
Beetle		
Wasp		
Other insects		

What was your favourite pollinator you spotted?

Sensory Journal Template

On my walk today

I saw a...

I smelt a...

I felt a...

I heard a...

Activity 3: Food thanks to Pollinators

Curriculum: Languages, Maths

Description: Insects are important because they help to pollinate a lot of our food crops, from foods like strawberries to apples to tomatoes. However, insects are facing lots of threats, including loss of habitat and climate change. So, what could this mean for our food?

Resources needed:

- Worksheets
- Pencils/pens

Questions to consider:

- Discuss the importance of pollinators for our food and plants.
- What do we think our pollinators are threatened by? E.g., climate change, habitat loss, pesticide use.

Instructions:

1. Print out the worksheet below, ensuring each child has their own copy.
2. Discuss with the class the importance of pollinators for food production – they pollinate around 70 of our 100 food crops and farmers rely a lot on them.
3. On their worksheet, ask the children to circle the food on the shelves they would pick up to eat.
4. Ask the children to count how many items in their shopping are dependent on pollinators.
5. Ask the children if they were surprised by the amount of food pollinated by our insects – do they think we would struggle if our pollinators disappeared?



Circle the food on the shop shelves that you would pick up to eat.



Now this is what the shelves would look like if our insects disappeared and could no longer pollinate!



Count how many food items you chose to eat that depended on pollinators.

Can you work out what percentage of food from the shopping shelves depends on pollinators?



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