



Plant Pollinators: Science and Visual Arts

Objectives:

1. Discuss the importance of pollinators to the ecosystem
2. Create a pollinator as a garden decoration

Grade Level: Elementary School

Common Core Academic Standards:

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.8](#): With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5](#)
Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Suggested Image:

- *August*; George A. Weymouth; 1974

Introduction: Birds, bats, bees, butterflies and other insects and small mammals are pollinators that are vital to our ecosystem. They travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies to help plants reproduce. These plants in turn become our food, our fibers, our oils and so much more.

Discover: Look at the painting *August* by artist George A. Weymouth. Have the students imagine they are walking through the field in this work. What would they smell? Hear? Feel? Although no insects are pictured, it is easy to imagine the sound of cicadas and crickets and the sight of bees and butterflies flying about. A field such as the one pictured can thrive in part because of the work of pollinators.

Create: A plant pollinator garden decoration

Materials:

- Cardstock
- Markers
- Model Magic (white)
- Wire pieces
- Scissors
- Wood and wire floral picks
- Pencils
- Print outs of winged plant pollinators



Assignment:

1. Students will choose a favorite plant pollinator.
2. After carefully observing the pollinator picture, students will draw just the outline of the wings of the pollinator making them about 4 inches wide (make sure the wings are connected as one piece to be cut out). Optional: give the students a template to trace.
3. Cut out the wings.
4. Use markers to color the wings to look like their chosen pollinator.
5. Take a small marble sized ball of Model Magic and push it onto the top of the floral pick with the wire coming up through it.
6. Gently flatten the Model Magic onto the underside of their colored wings in order to adhere the wings to the floral pick.
7. Wrap the wire up and over the wings of their pollinator and use the wire as a structure to build the body of the pollinator using more Model Magic.
8. Students can add wire pieces for legs and antennae into the Model Magic.
9. Students will color the body of the pollinator using markers.

