Pollinator Matchmaker

Learning Outcomes

Learn the parts of a flower. Learn how pollination occurs with the help of insects. Learn how species of flowers have evolved to attract certain species of pollinators.
Virtually dissect a flower and an insect while identifying how each plays a role in pollination.
Play a match-making game to pick which pollinator is best for each type of flower. Then use these skills to dissect a real flower while teaching someone else about pollination.

Challenges

Virtual Dissection

- Insects have evolved to interact with flowers in unique ways. Complete the virtual plant dissection and the insect co-evolution learning activity to learn how flowers and pollinating insects differ one from another. You will soon notice that some flowers seem to be perfectly designed for certain pollinator insects and vice versa. Pick one flower and one insect that you think are a good match. Submit a description of the reproductive parts of the flower and explain why the insect is best suited as its pollinator.
- ***Learning Outcomes:*** *Learn the parts of a flower and how flowers attract insects and how insects interact in their own unique ways with flowers for pollination to occur.*

Matchmaker

- Once you have completed the Virtual Dissection, you should know that some pollinators are mostly attracted to specific flowers. Complete the Flower and Insect matching game at the end of the discussion lesson. Submit a screenshot of the completed activity.
- ***Learning Outcomes:*** *Learn how some flowers attract specific types of pollinators, and how different types of insects pollinate different types of flowers more efficiently.*

Dissect a Real Flower

- Understanding the anatomical parts of a flower will help you understand how pollination works. After studying the anatomy of a flower, dissect a flower from a nearby garden (with permission) and teach a family member about the anatomical parts of a flower and how pollination occurs. Submit a photo of the dissected flower with a brief explanation of what you taught.
- ***Learning Outcomes:*** *Learn about the anatomy of a flower and teach others how pollination works.*