

Agriculture Adventures for Families

Apples, peaches, pumpkin pie! Raspberries, strawberries, and blueberries too. What about avocados, almonds, tomatoes, and cucumbers? What do these have in common you might guess? Besides being an excellent source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber, they all depend upon pollinators! Look for the sights and listen for the sounds of pollinators all around you this beautiful month of May.

This month we are going to let you test your knowledge about pollinators. Let's see how well you do!



1. True or False: There are about 4,000 species of bees in the U.S.
2. True or False: Pollinators are important to sustaining functioning ecosystems and food supplies for wildlife.
3. True or False: Bees feed on both nectar and pollen.
4. True or False: One bush or one clump of perennials is often all it takes to foster native bees in your yard.
5. True or False: The loss of plant diversity does not affect the health of native bees.
6. True or False. Along with bees, bats, birds and butterflies, some beetles are also pollinators.
7. Yes or No. To bee or not to bee?
8. True or False: Other methods of pollination include beetles, birds, flies, water and wind.

Answers:



1. True. There are nearly 20,000 known bee species in the world, and 4,000 of them are native to the United States. Native bees come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. And all these bees have jobs, as pollinators.
2. True: While the importance of a healthy pollinator population to agriculture is clear, pollinators are just as important to sustaining functioning ecosystems and food supplies for wildlife.
3. True. Bees feed on both nectar and pollen – the nectar is for energy, and the pollen provides protein and other nutrients. Most pollen is used by bees as larvae food, but bees also transfer it from plant-to-plant providing the pollination services needed by plants and nature as a whole.
- 4: True. Bees are tiny; one bush or one clump of perennials is often all it takes to foster native bees in your yard. Within a mile of your yard (urban or rural) there are at least 100 species of bees looking for the right plants. Attracting and tending these native bees on your property is all about planting the right flowers and flowering bushes.
5. False. Loss of plant diversity is the primary cause of native bee decline, and 30-50% of all native bees are highly specialized.
6. True. Bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles provide vital but often invisible pollination services that support terrestrial wildlife and plant communities, and healthy watersheds. Beetles are among the earliest prehistoric pollinators.
7. Yes. To bee! Native bees are estimated to pollinate 80 percent of flowering plants around the world. According to the USDA, bees of all sorts pollinate approximately 75 percent of the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the United States, and one out of every four bites of food people take is courtesy of bee pollination. In sum, bee pollination is responsible for more than \$15 billion in increased crop value each year.
8. True. Fun Fact is that plants pollinated by water release pollen onto the surface or beneath the surface of the water. On the surface of the water, the pollen floats to another flower. The pollen grains released beneath the surface are heavier than water. That pollen sinks and is caught by flowers that grow underwater.

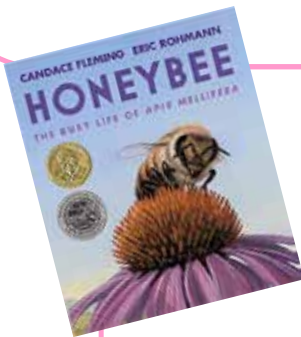
Source: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/test-your-bee-and-other-pollinator-knowledge>

What is Pollination?



Pollination is a very important part of the life cycle of plants. Plants cannot produce seeds unless they are pollinated. Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the stamen to the pistil of the flower. There are two methods of pollination. The most common method is cross-pollination where pollen is transferred between flowers on two different plants. Self-pollination takes place when pollination occurs within just one flower or between flowers on the same plant.

Source: www.agintheclassroom.org



If you'd like the opportunity to see a honeybee up-close, look no further than this amazing picture book by Illinois author, Candace Fleming. As you turn the pages you will see (through the illustrator's astonishing work) and learn about the life cycle of hard-working honeybees.



May Word Search

Bees

Butterfly

Flower

Method

Native

Nectar

Perennial

Pistil

Plants

Pollen

Species

Stamen

Transfer

Water

Wildlife

Wind

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

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

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If you were to win, check your preference:

___Beggar's Pizza GC ___HRI GC ___3 Movie Tix

(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey .

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau

Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBCooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2021 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Good luck!

Last Month's Word
Search Winner Is..



Deming Sun