

Build a pollinator hotel!

What if there were no pollinators? Beneficial insects support Mother Nature in the development of fruits and seeds. We challenge you to Build a bug hotel to offer these insects a space where they can propagate and hunker down in bad weather

Setup

Research how you can use a variety of materials to build a bug hotel perfect for each type of insect you hope to attract. Solitary bees and wasps seek places to lay their eggs, so they will be attracted to various-sized holes in wood. They also like to hide out in the open spaces in bamboo poles, which you can cut into small pieces. If drilling holes into wood, vary the sizes from 0.2-0.4 inches in diameter so other species will also fill those spaces.

Content

Next time you see a person crunching on an apple or savoring a chocolate bar, remind them that they should thank a pollinator for providing their snack. More than 150 of our food crops rely on pollinators to move pollen among flowers to facilitate fertilization, which ultimately leads to the development of fruits and seeds. How could you help protect these beneficial insects?

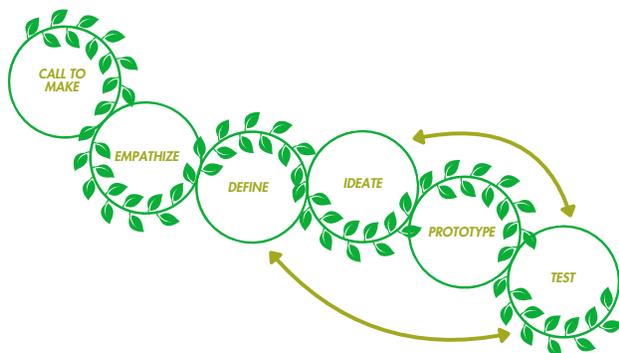


Skills

- Building
- Tools

Materials

- Leaves
- Twigs
- Loose bark
- Pine cones
- Stones
- Straw
- Crumbly bricks
- Pieces of concrete
- Twine
- Chicken wire
- Glue
- Hay
- Cardboard tubes
- Egg cartons
- Bamboo poles
- Drilled logs
- Old roof
- Ceramic tiles
- Plastic bottles
- Hammer
- Nails
- Gardening clay pots





Call to Make

- We can't live without pollinators. They are essential to our ecological survival. How is this an urgent issue?
- You are creating a garden, what would you need to grow your vegetables, flowers or fruits.
- What is a pollinator?
- Why are pollinators important?
- What are ways we can help protect pollinators?
- What pollinators would you like to attract to your garden/yard?
- What natural materials would you need to build a bug hotel?

Empathize

What would happen if all pollinators were to disappear? Use your 5 senses and imagine a world without pollinators. What would you see, smell, hear, touch and taste?
How can we raise awareness for people to see the importance of protecting our ecosystems?

Define

What vital role do pollinators play in the ecosystem?
What function will your habitat offer? A refuge for hibernation or a dry nesting place?
How will you determine the size of your bug hotel?
What type of pollinators do you anticipate attracting?

Ideate

How will you make sure all the materials stay together? How will you reduce the chances that the rain will cause a flood inside the habitat? How will you protect insects from predators?
What materials will you use? What are your pollinators habitat needs?

Prototype

Research the kinds of places and materials insects and birds need for building hotels and spending down time. Does your prototype include these aspects?

Test

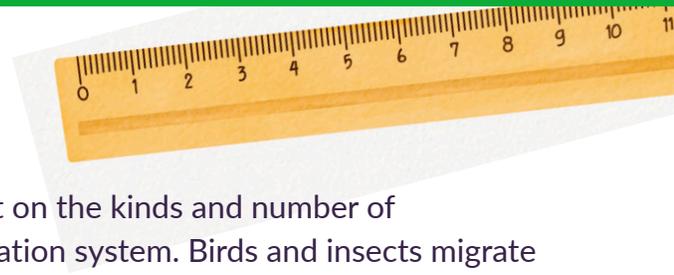
Where will you place your hotel? How does your hotel work as a bug shelter? What type of pollinators did you attract?



Teachable Moments

Math

What dimension should your bug hotel be? Make a chart on the kinds and number of pollinators attracted to your bug hotel. Create a classification system. Birds and insects migrate to different locations during winter time. How many kilometres can they travel per day?



Science

What is a pollinator and why are they important? What types of plants are dependent on pollinators? What are ways we can help protect pollinators? What plants can we put in our gardens to provide shade for certain pollinators to use in their nest. What actions could we do to help protect our ecosystem?

Visual Arts

Decorate a bug hotel according to which insect you want to attract. Make seed paper and then create cards and bookmarks.

Language Arts

Create informational signs to hang near the insect hotel. Make a poster to support awareness on why habitat conservation for pollinators is so important for us, for flowering plants and for the pollinators themselves. Read up how pesticides can affect pollinators. Imagine that you're a pollinator concerned about pesticide use and write a blog post to share with us.

Music

Create and record a calming sound with natural material.

Physical Education

Go help in the garden or take a walk outdoors and identify different traits that flowers have developed to lure pollinators.

Social Studies

Read up on the Sustainable development goals from the United Nations, what immediate actions can you take to help?

Health

What foods could you add in your compost to provide nutrients for pollinators?



Glossary

Pollinator

A pollinator is an animal that moves pollen from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of a flower

Resources

Why bees matter?

[Access the link](#)

Bee Hotel

[Access the document](#)

Pollinators - Facts

[Access the document](#)

Code a Beehive controller

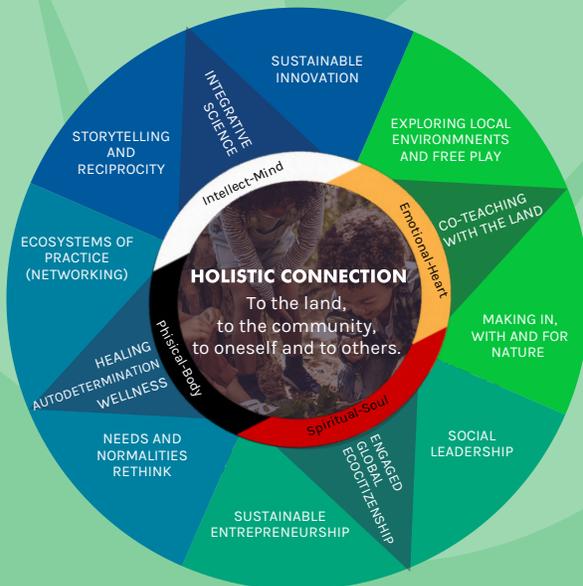
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Learning continuum: Sustainable Innovation Through Holistic Connection

Based on three emerging pedagogies* and in recognition of indigenous knowledge, the natural maker educational continuum aims to support the learner through a holistic journey of connection to the earth, the community, oneself and others, in order to evolve globally towards a more open, humble, democratic and decolonized way of thinking, learning and living.

* wild pedagogies, conscious pedagogies and decolonization of education



#EarthDayforNature

#ActForEarth #ClimateAction

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