



THE SECRET GARDEN

The Secret Garden at The Ringling includes plants that have been specially chosen to help pollinators thrive. Pollinators are insects, birds, and mammals that take the pollen from one flowering plant, and spread it around to other plants. Important pollinators such as bees, butterflies, bats, ants, and hummingbirds are all commonly seen in Florida. Without these animals working to spread pollen, many plants would be unable to reproduce, or make new plants. **Some pollinators you might find in your own neighborhood are bees, butterflies, bats, hummingbirds, beetles, or flies.** Which ones can you find?

We depend on pollinators for a lot of the food we eat. Pollinators help produce chocolate, peaches, oranges, pumpkins, coffee, and honey. You can help pollinators do their job by observing your neighborhood and noticing where the pollinators like to hang out. Reduce your impact by limiting pesticide use and increasing green spaces, and planting for pollinators to supply these animals with nectar, pollen and homes!

Adapted from Dunning, S. (June 28, 2018). Summer is the time for pollinators



## THE BEES KNEES

Honey bees are an amazing species which not only pollinate plants, but produce a tasty treat- honey! Honey bees live in hives, and turn plant nectar into honey which they eat during the winter. The bees make 2-3 times more honey than they can eat, so humans can harvest, or collect, the rest without hurting the hive.

Honey bees have a great sense of smell and their own way to communicate. When a honey bee finds a great source of food, they will move in a figure-eight and waggle their bodies in the direction of the food. This “waggle dance” lets the other bees know where to find the food source.

**Try it out, can you dance like the honey bee?**

## STANDARDS:

SC.3.L.14.1

# ACTIVITY

## POLLINATORS

### MATERIALS:

CARDSTOCK, CRAFT PAINT, WATER DROPPER OR SMALL PAINTBRUSH, STRING, SPONGES, CORKS, STAMPS, AND PIPE CLEANERS

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

SIMPLE



## BUTTERFLY SYMMETRY PAINTING

Create a colorful butterfly! Butterflies use their vibrant wing colors for a lot of different reasons. Some butterflies are colored to blend in to their environment, such as the Zela Metalmark whose brownish wings blend into the dry woodlands they call home. Some butterflies use bright colors to send a warning to predators that they are toxic

and taste disgusting such as the Painted Lady whose red and orange splotches warn to stay away! What colors will you choose to send a message?

## DIRECTIONS

1. Fold a sheet of cardstock in half. Trace butterfly wings on the cardstock keeping the fold as the center of the butterfly. Cut out the butterfly.
2. Open the fold to reveal the full butterfly. On one side of the butterfly drop a few dots of paint, leave about an inch between dots.
3. Fold the butterfly and press firmly along the wings. Open the butterfly to see the symmetrical pattern of paint dots.
4. Fold a pipe cleaner in half and curl the edges. Attach pipe cleaner at the fold to the top of the butterfly to form antennae.
5. Make more butterfly patterns by dipping string into paint and curling it on one side of the butterfly, leaving about 3" off the edge. Fold the cardstock and keep closed firmly. Pull the string out while keeping the cardstock firmly closed. Open the butterfly to see the swirl line design.
6. Repeat this process using sponges, corks, finger painting, or other techniques to explore different textures for the butterfly wings.

## WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU CREATE!

Click [here](#) to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!