

Plant for Pollinators Challenge Remote Lesson Plan

Pollinators are in a steep decline which will create devastating problems with our food supply if we don't act quickly. The Cincinnati Zoo needs your help in understanding what plants are best at attracting pollinators in our region. Become a citizen scientist and collect data on plants at your home or in your neighborhood parks and let the Zoo know which plants you think should be included in next year's [Plant for Pollinators Challenge](#).

Created by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, and the Wyoming City Schools.

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|  <p>STEP 1</p> | <p>Join Our Mission Have your parent/guardian create an account on Project Noah. Upload a creative picture to your profile under Settings. And then join our mission titled Plant for Pollinators Citizen Science.</p> |
|  <p>STEP 2</p> | <p>Take a Guess What characteristics of a plant do you think would make it good at attracting pollinators, such as bees or butterflies? Jot down your ideas below:</p> |
|  <p>STEP 3</p> | <p>Find a Plant Look for a plant that you can research and observe to see whether it would be a good plant to attract pollinators. This can be in your backyard, a community garden, or a nearby park. You can even plant your own pollinator garden as part of the Zoo's 2020 Plant for Pollinators Challenge, and then observe one of your new plants. If you can't find a plant, just complete this form to receive a virtual plant to research.</p> |
|  <p>STEP 4</p> | <p>Research Your Plant Use these recommended resources to try to identify and research your plant. It's okay if you can't identify your plant. Do your best and our friends at the Zoo will help.</p> <p>Cincinnati Zoo Resources Seek by iNaturalist Leafsnap Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wildflowers Guide</p> |
|  <p>STEP 5</p> | <p>Write a Description Jot down your notes from your research. Here are some example questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">What is the plant's name?What color is it?If it has flowers, what are their shapes?What season(s) does it bloom?Does it smell?Is it a native plant to this region?What types of pollinators does it attract? |

**Take Pictures**

Every day you observe your plant, go out and take pictures. See if you can even photograph a pollinator!

**Observe Your Plant.**

Observe your plant for 3 to 5 days. Use tally marks to keep track of the number of pollinators you see.

| | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Start time | | | | | |
| End time | | | | | |
| Type of Pollinator | | | | | |
| Bee | | | | | |
| Bird | | | | | |
| Butterfly | | | | | |
| Moth | | | | | |
| Wasp | | | | | |
| Fly | | | | | |
| Beetle | | | | | |
| Other: | | | | | |

**Make a Recommendation**

Based on your research (from Step 5) and/or observations (from Step 7), answer the following:

My plant (is/is not) a good plant for a pollinator because _____



Upload Your Spotting

Go to your Project Noah [Home Page](#) and click the "Upload A New Spotting" button. Add your plant's name and description (from Step 5). If you don't know your plant's name, click "Help me ID this species." Upload your photos (from Step 6). And include your recommendation (from Step 8) **in the Notes area**. Select **Plant for Pollinators Citizen Science** as the mission. Check back to see if you get a response from the Zoo!



Respond to Others

Reply to any comments you receive and write a comment to others' spottings using the following prompt:

I (agree/disagree) with your recommendation because _____