

Circle your favorite pollinator to help pollinate your classmates' flowers!



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Kankakee County SWCD



Do you want to learn more about native plants, pollinators, soil, water, and local conservation?

Visit our website! www.kankakeecountyswcd.org

Give us a call! (815) 937-8940 ext. 3

Send an email! Emilie.Janes@il.nacdnet.net

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****KEY****



NATIVE PLANTS &

Pollinators

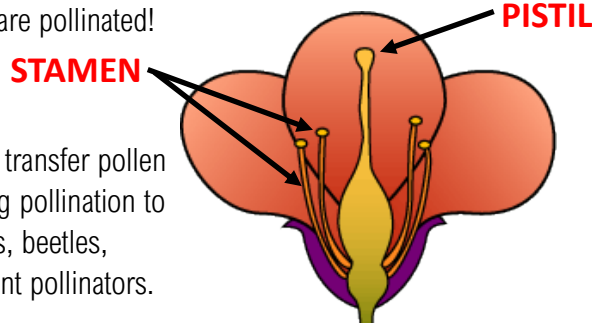


WHAT IS...

Pollination?



Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the **stamen** to the **pistil** of the flower. Pollination is an important part of the life cycle of plants. Plants cannot produce seeds unless they are pollinated!



Pollinators are animals that transfer pollen from one flower to another, allowing pollination to occur. Butterflies, bees, moths, flies, beetles, birds, and even bats are all important pollinators.

What are native plants?

Native plants are plants that occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction. Native plants provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and other wildlife. Native plants are very beneficial to our environment, and our pollinators prefer native plants over non-native species.

A non-native/exotic plant is a plant that has been introduced to an area, and is growing outside of its natural range. Sometimes these plants spread quickly and can damage the environment, taking away valuable resources like sunlight, water, and space from native plants. When a plant starts to harm the environment and compete for resources, the plant is called an invasive plant. Bush honeysuckle is an example of an invasive species taking over forested areas in Illinois.

A few of the many native plants found in Illinois:



Purple Coneflower

Swamp Milkweed

Wild Bergamot

Black-eyed Susan

Match the insect or bird with its favorite native plant...

Many animals rely on native plants for food and shelter. Draw lines to match the insect or bird (below) with one of its favorite native plants (above)!



Blazing Star



Wild Bergamot



Purple Coneflower



Milkweed



Honey Bee



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Monarch Butterfly



American Goldfinch

Pollinators and Agriculture

Did you know...

About 75% of the world's flowering plants and about 35% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles, and other insects!

One out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of pollinators.

The numbers of monarchs and bees are declining, but you can help by planting native plants to supply them with food and habitat!



About how many flowers must a honey bee colony visit to make 1 pound of honey?

MY GUESS: _____ flowers

ANSWER: ~ 2 million flowers

Examples: almonds, apples,

What is one other food that pollinators help make? pumpkins, coffee, chocolate, etc.