

Pollinator Day: Insight Citizen Science

This activity will get you outside and help scientists gather valuable data to track pollinator health and density across different environments across North America.

Age: 10 and up

Gather your Gear

- Insight Citizen Science iPhone app ([or use the paper observation form here](#))
- One square meter area (a little over three square feet) with blooming flowers.
- Five minutes of your time.

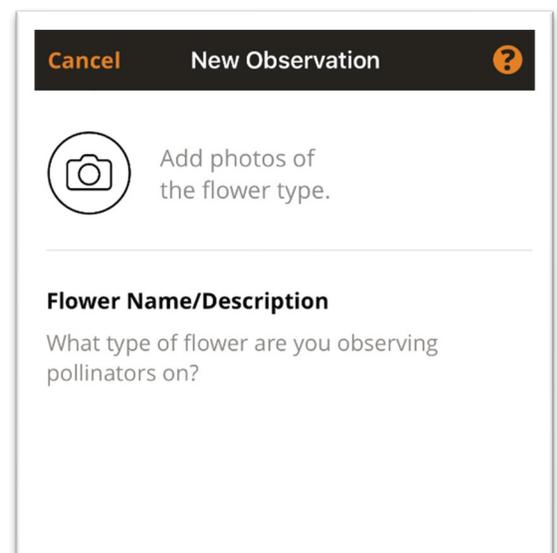


Get Ready *Get your family thinking about the activity before you start.*

- Pollinators are important to our ecosystem and help provide food that many of us eat every day.
- Bees and other pollinators provide around 35% of the food we eat today—or about one in three bites of food.
- Not all bees are well suited to pollinate every flower. Today, there are 20,000 different species of bees that are grouped by their tongue size (small, medium, and long). The length of their tongue determines which type of flowers a bee can drink nectar from.
- Bees and other pollinators are losing safe habitat at an alarming rate. The major reasons are human development, intensive agriculture, and widespread pesticide use.
- Researchers are using citizen science to help determine the density and diversity of bee species across many different environments throughout North America.
- Citizen science is a form of crowd-sourced scientific research where anyone can participate as an amateur scientist. You can help by logging your observations on paper or through the free iOS app on iPhone.

Making and Recording Your Observations

- Download the Insight Citizen Science app from the Apple App Store on iPhone or use the [paper observation form](#).
- Open the app and create an account to use. Be sure to sign up part of the Zoo Atlanta team!
- Familiarize yourself with the app including the Pollinator Category Identification and the Observation Guidelines sections. This will help you quickly identify the pollinators you see.
- Go outside and search for a one square meter area (a little over three square feet) with blooming flowers in it. This will be your observation site for the entire five-minute observation.
- Once you have found your site, it is time to begin your observations. Open the app and click on the “Observe” tab. From here, enter the description of the flower you will be



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watching or upload a picture of it. It is important to note that you should only observe pollinators on that one type of flower.

- As soon as the five-minute timer starts, begin looking for pollinators in your observation area. When you see one, make sure to tap the corresponding image in the app to count it. The app will keep a running tally of all of the pollinators you record before the timer runs out.
- If you're not sure how to identify a pollinator, tap the information icon next to each category to learn more about identifying it.
- At the end of the observation, be sure to record any other relevant information before saving your observation.
- You can perform as many observations as you would like and check the map to see how many other people in your area are participating.

Recap *Have a conversation about what you learned and questions your family may have.*

- How many pollinators did you see during your observation?
- What factors do you think led to the number of pollinators that you saw? Was it a good area or a bad one?
- What could you change about the area that you were observing to encourage more pollinators to be there?

Relate *Create connections to the idea through activities*

- Start a citizen science competition with your friends and neighbors! Challenge them to see who can record the most observations in a week.

It takes a team.... join ours: Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both are so important. If your family members are on social media, post pictures of performing research and use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- To learn more about what you can do to help pollinators, as well as what Zoo Atlanta is doing, visit our Project Pollinator page at <https://zooatlanta.org/project/project-pollinator/>

