



GREEN EXPLORERS CLUB
STAY AT HOME PROJECT

LESSON: POLLINATORS

Q

Did ya know that 1/3 of all the food we eat is pollinated by bees?

A

Yes! Bees are SUPER important to all of us!



DIRECTIONS

These quick projects are designed for you to do at home with your kids in an hour or less with materials that you likely already have in your cupboards. The book suggestions are available digitally so you can read them on a hand-held device if you do not have a relevant book on your home bookshelves. These home projects do not go into the level of detail we do in our studio classes, but they are a great way to introduce new topics and have fun at home!

BOOKS

[“The Bee Book”](#) by Charlotte Milner

[“Love Bees: A Family Guide”](#) by Vanessa Amaral-Rogers

[“Flowers Are Calling”](#) by Rita Gray

[“Great Migrations – Butterflies”](#) by Laura Marsh

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

STEP 1: Start by talking about the topic of the day - **POLLINATORS!**

Can you list some types of pollinators? (answers: bees, butterflies, ladybugs, birds, bats, etc).

STEP 2: Read a book about pollinators with your kids. You can choose a favorite book from your home bookshelf, or try one of the suggested books above if you would like something new to read with your kids. If you are still curious after reading your book, look around online to do more research.

STEP 3: Explain to your kids that pollinators are important and in danger of losing their food supply. They need more gardens and flowers to help them survive -- these gardens are not only a source of food, they are also where they live and raise their babies. We need pollinators too – did you know that if there were no bees, we would not be able to grow the vast majority of the fruits and vegetables we eat today?

STEP 4: Gather your materials. If you do not have wildflower seeds lying around your house, improvise and use any seeds you may have on hand. Be sure to have a tray or a plate prepared to put your seed bombs on when the kids are finished shaping them. The seed bombs will need to sit outside for a few days to dry.

STEP 5: After you feel like your kids have a good grasp on what a pollinator is, begin gathering your materials to make your seed bombs. Be sure to have a tray or a plate prepared to put them on when the kids are finished shaping them. This should be a plate/tray that you are ok with sitting outside for a few days.

NOTE: Remember to check on your seed bombs and flip them over if they bottom seems much wetter than the top.

SEED BOMBS!

PROJECT TIME - 1 hour

DRY TIME - 1-7 days

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Construction Paper
- Wildflower Seeds
- Small Plate to Roll Seeds
- Food Processor/Blender
- Water
- 2 Large Bowl (for soaking seeds and to paper pulp)
- Bowl Scraper/
Wooden Spoon
- Fun-Shaped Ice Cube
Trays or Cookie Cutters
(optional)

HOW DO SEED BOMBS WORK?

Seed bombs are designed to be planted in your garden, or a flower pot on your deck, or thrown into an open field to spread wildflowers around your community for the pollinators.



MAKE SEED BOMBS

STEP 1: MAKE THE PULP. Tear sheets of construction paper into small pieces, soak them for 5 minutes. Next blend the wet paper into a pulp.

STEP 2: MAKE THE SEED BOMBS. Pour the paper pulp into a bowl. Next, grab a handful of pulp and ring out the water (leaving a little moisture in the paper so it holds its shape). Then roll it in the tray of wildflower seeds, and finish rounding it into a ball, or put it in fun-shaped ice cube trays.

STEP 3: SET SEED BOMBS OUT TO DRY. Allow the seed bombs to dry out, placing them in the sun makes this process happen more quickly (24-48 hours). Drying the seed bombs ensures the paper stays intact when you are launching them, and also helps delay the germination process that can begin during this time.

STEP 4: PLANT OR DISPURSE YOUR SEED BOMBS. If you plan to plant your seed bomb in a flower pot, dig a small hole for your seed bomb, place it inside, and cover it with existing soil. If you feel more like a renegade gardener - take your seed bombs on a bike ride, or a family walk, and throw them in an empty lot, or open field.



WHY USE WILDFLOWERS IN SEED BOMBS?

Wildflowers are native plants that require little maintenance, and attract birds and pollinating insects, like our pollinating champions - the honey bees! Wildflower meadows also do not need fertilizers, pesticides, or watering to perform well. They have a shallow root structure that grows quite quickly AND wildflowers also stabilize the soil surface and do not interfere with soil transpiration.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE - Tag us in a picture of your seed bomb's adventure. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We would love to see your wombat bites!