



Red Hill

ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTRE

STAGE TWO - SCIENCE

Living World: Precious Pollinators

UNIT OVERVIEW

Precious Pollinators immerses students to the fascinating world of pollinators and flowering plants. Pollinators are essential to healthy, biodiverse ecosystems and human food systems but are increasingly under threat. Students will learn about flower and bee ecology, undertake a pollinator count, make seed paper and build an insect hotel.



SCIENCE OUTCOMES

ST2-4LW-S compares the features and characteristics of living and non-living things

ST2-5LW-T describes how agricultural processes are used to grow plants and raise animals for food, clothing and shelter

ST2-2DP-2 selects and uses materials, tools and equipment to develop solutions for a need or opportunity



KEY INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- How are environments and living things interdependent?
- How can we group living things?
- How do we create food and fibre products from animals and plants?

CONTENT

Students will:

- understand how *bees and flowers* depend on each other and the environment to survive
- investigate the life cycles of bees and flowers
- explore the classification of insects
- construct a bee hotel to support local pollinators in their environment



INTRODUCING PRECIOUS POLLINATORS

Students are introduced to the wonderful world of pollinators and explore why they are essential to life on Earth. Students learn about Australia's impressive diversity of native bee species, their life cycles, how humans are threatening the abundance and diversity of pollinators and what we can do to support them.

FLOWER DISSECTION

Students learn about the process of pollination and examine a range of flowers, identifying possible pollinators based on physiological clues. Students dissect flowers, identifying and classifying key parts.

WHAT IS AN INSECT?

Students learn about classification and the features of insects that differentiate them from other minibeasts, participating in identification games, activities and using microscopes.

POLLINATOR COUNT

Students explore a local habitat and undertake a minibeast hunt to identify and tally pollinator species. These data collection skills may be transferred to school to create a pollinator database for the home school.

SEED PAPER OR SEED BOMBS

Students make sheets of recycled paper and paper bombs containing with flower seeds which can be planted out in pots or pollinator gardens. Paper can also be cut up and used in cards or for gift tags.

POLLINATOR HOTEL

Additional Costs Involved

Students build the contents for different sections of the pollinator hotel: cane bundles, drilled logs and rammed clay pots. Hotels are installed at the home school where students can monitor residence post-visit.

Some activities also available in an incursion format.

For bookings or further enquiries about this program, please contact Red Hill Environmental Education Centre on 02 6374 2558 or redhill-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

