



Pollinator Power

UConn 4-H Earth Agents

Background

Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, birds, ladybugs, and beetles, are of great importance in our world. Nectar from flowers, a sweet sticky substance, is their food source. As they travel from flower to flower, they spread pollen. Pollen is a part of plant reproduction, and without it, most plants won't produce fruit. Not only do we like to enjoy eating fruit, but fruits hold the seeds that will become the next generation of plants.

Unfortunately, pollinators are struggling due to loss of natural habitats, chemical use, and climate change. You can help by contributing to a community or backyard garden, volunteering for pollinator conservation events, and educating others about the importance of pollinators. Check out the activity below to build your very own pollinator creation!

Supplies and Tools

Toothbrush head

Small motor

Small, round battery

2 pieces of double-sided tape

Cornstarch, flour, or crushed snack

Meadow sheet

Pollinator sticker (optional)



Activity Steps

Notes

1. Peel both sides of one piece of double-sided tape. Stick one side on the plastic top of your toothbrush head.

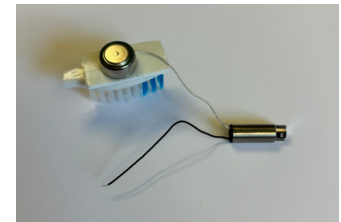
Visuals



2. Hold your battery in one hand and the motor in the other. Experiment with the two different color wires. If you place the end of one wire on the flat top of the battery, and the end of the other wire on the bottom of the battery, what happens?



3. Keeping the end of one wire to the bottom of the battery, stick the battery to the top of the double-sided tape you placed on the toothbrush in step #1. Stick the main part of the motor to the tape as well, keeping the moving part free from the tape.



4. Peel both sides of the second piece of double-sided tape and, with the end of the free wire on the top of the battery, place the double-sided tape on top. Place your pollinator sticker on top.



5. Place some cornstarch, flour, or crushed snack on your pollinator meadow sheet. See how your pollinator moves the pollen around the paper! To turn off your pollinator so you don't run the power out of the battery, unstick the top layer of tape so the wire is no longer connected.



If you enjoyed this project, visit 4-h.extension.uconn.edu to learn more about UConn 4-H. Check out the UConn 4-H webpage to view the video associated with this activity.

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