



Dear Pollinator...

Background: The aim of this session is to understand what makes a good habitat for pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and beetles. Pupils will investigate which habitat features their school has to offer, and write a letter to a pollinating insect asking them to move in.

Learning Objectives:

- Communicate; share experiences, ideas and information
- Explore and discover interesting features of habitats
- Improve understanding of conservation and biodiversity

Key Topics: Science, Literacy, Art

Location: Indoors and Outdoors

Equipment:

Paper/pens/art supplies
Tick sheets

Key Words:

Habitat, Pollinator, Flower, Nectar, Pollen, Shelter

Links to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study:

Science: Y3-4 identify the function of different parts of flowering plants, explore the part that flowers play in pollination and seed dispersal, identify and study some plants and animals in their habitat.

Y5-6: describe the life process of reproduction in some plants, observe and compare life cycles of plants and animals in the local environment, classify animals into commonly found invertebrates such as insects, use keys to identify some animals in the immediate environment.

Literacy Key Stage 2-write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in a range of contexts and genre. Comparing formal and informal letters



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Instructions:

1. Start the session by asking pupils to list what humans need to survive. These should fit into broad categories of: Food, Water, Shelter, Warmth.
2. Next ask children to think about what insect pollinators might need. Are there any similarities?
3. Discuss how pollinators meet these needs in their environment. Examples might include:
 - Visiting flowers to collect food in the form of pollen and nectar
 - Sheltering in trees and log piles
 - Finding sunny spots to warm up in
 - Collecting water from ponds or puddles
4. Produce a tick list of habitat features that would attract insect pollinators to your school. Walk around the school grounds trying to find as many features, such as flowers or places to shelter, as possible. Be sure to keep an eye out for the insects themselves!
5. Finish the session by asking pupils to write a letter to a pollinating insect of their choice, describing all the positive features your school has to offer, and asking pollinators to move in.

Tip: You might also want to discuss what is lacking for pollinators in your school grounds. This could be a useful exercise prior to building bug hotels. Pupils could produce a poster advertising the site to pollinators, including those features that are 'Coming Soon!'