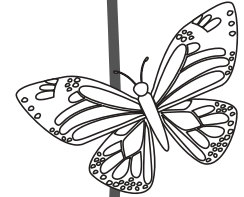
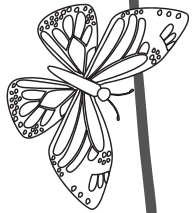


# Sit Spot

Spring is a great time to sit and use all your senses to take in the gifts of mother nature. Find a spot outside to sit for 5, 10, or 20 minutes. Listen.... what do you hear? Smell anything? What do you notice with your eyes? Sometimes we see more when we are still. Draw or write about your experience when you are done. Notice how this exercise makes you feel.

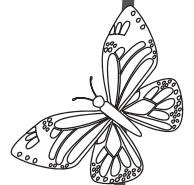
What do you see?



What do you smell?

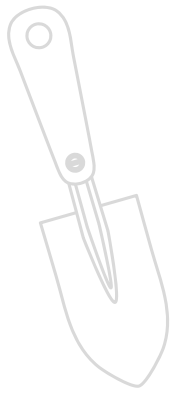


What do you hear?

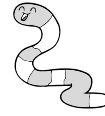


# Soil Square

Find some soil where you can dig (maybe in the woods or garden). Measure a square 8 inches by 8 inches and dig there about 5-6 inches deep. Make a list of what you find there and draw pictures of each. Use a magnifying glass if you have one to see really small animals.










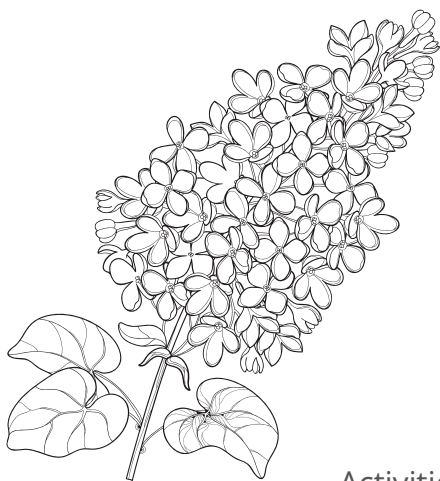
**What did you find?**



# Pollinator Observation

Find a blooming lilac bush (or any flowering plant with lots of blooms). Sit down for 10 minutes and record how many of each type of pollinator you see. Make a mark next to each category. Then add the totals up at the end.

Example		4
 Bee		
 Bumble Bee		
 Wasp		
 Fly		
 Butterfly		
 Moth		
 Beetle		





*Quick guide to*

# Insect Identification

*for the*

## Wild Pollinator Count

Tips to help you count insects in the correct categories.

Enter your results from a 10-minute count on a flowering plant of your choice at:

<https://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/>

wildpollinatorcount.com

# BEE

Look for:



- **Body shape** hourglass, with 'waist' and cylindrical abdomen & thorax.



- **Pollen-carrying hair** (scopa) on legs or abdomen (for many females, not all)

- **Long antennae** often with kink/elbow

- **Eyes** long, oval, at side of 'face', often black



- **Wings** often on back at rest and shorter than the body (2 pairs)

- **Head** triangular or tear-shaped

\* With more than 1,600 species of bees in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

# FLY

Look for:



- **Eyes** large, round and cover much of the 'face'

- **Short antennae**, often hard to see



- **Body shape** usually 'stout' with less obvious 'waist'

- **Wings** one pair only, usually longer than body. Often held out at 45° angle at rest



- **Head** round, large

- **Other:** Some mimic bees & wasps.

\* With at least 7,000 species of flies in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

# WASP

Look for:



- **Body shape** often long and slim, with distinct 'waist'. Legs often dangle in flight.

- **Eyes** long, oval-shaped, at side of head, sometimes with a 'notch' (emarginate)



- **Long antennae**

- **Wings** usually long and thin, generally shorter than the body (2 pairs)



- **Head** triangular or tear-shaped

- **Other:** some with visible ovipositor.

\* With at least 12,000 species of wasps in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

# BUTTERFLY

Look for:



- **Wings** held high above body (tent shape)
- **Antennae** with a knob at end
- Typically **brighter colours**
- Generally **fly during the day**

# MOTH

Look for:



- **Wings** held flat along body
- **Antennae** simple or feathery, ending in a fine point
- Typically **dull or iridescent colours**
- Generally **fly at night**

\* With more than 20,000 species of butterflies and moths in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

## European honey bee

Look for:



- General **'bee' characteristics**
- **Pollen** collected on back legs
- **Colours vary** from golden to near black, and with light to distinctive stripes.
- **Hairy appearance.** Black eyes. Larger than most native bees. Common. Buzz.

## Blue-banded bee

Look for:



- General **'bee' characteristics**
- **Stripes typically blue** (but can be lighter or orange) on **black abdomen**.
- **Pollen** collected on back legs
- **Hairy appearance.** Rounder body, smaller than honey bees.

# BEETLE

Look for:



- Often **round to oval** body shape
- **Hard forewings** (elytra) with **hindwings often hidden** (used for flying)
- **Antennae visible**, but varying lengths & shapes
- **Chewing mouthparts**
- Typically **short flights**
- Huge variety of colors, sizes

\* With more than 20,000 species of beetles in Australia, these features are typical, but there are also exceptions to each generalisation.

## Ladybird beetle

Look for:



- **Domed body shape**
- **Short legs**
- **Short, clubbed antennae**
- **Variety of colours and patterns**

## Hover fly

Look for:



- **'Hovering'** flight above plants
- **Large round eyes** covering much of the face, small antennae
- **Usually yellow and black**, but colors, patterns and size vary between species
- **Not hairy.** Slim legs. Flat abdomen when viewed side-on.

## European wasp

Look for:



- **Stocky shape, ~15mm long**
- **Yellow with black markings**
- **Not hairy. Black antennae.** Yellow legs.

## Other insects

If you see other insects while watching flowers, note them too. You can also include comments or photos with your count.





# Butterfly Observation & Diary



Record when you see a butterfly and look online to find out what it eats. Is that plant nearby? Here's a list of common butterflies in Maine.

Butterfly	Date found	What does it eat?
Mourning Cloak		
Cabbage White		
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail		
Blue Azure		
Painted Lady		
Red Admiral		
American Copper		
Spangled Fritillary		
Monarch		

