

# Pollinator Cartoons

## Read the information below.

A pollinator is any animal or insect that moves pollen from one flower to another. The most common pollinator is the honey bee. Pollinators are attracted to specific flowers based on their unique characteristics. Most pollinators rely on flowers for food, pollen or nectar. Flowers rely on pollinators to produce seeds and fruits. Below is a chart showing some of the characteristics flowers use to attract pollinators.

	<b>Bee</b>	<b>Beetle</b>	<b>Butterfly</b>	<b>Moth</b>	<b>Hummingbird</b>
<b>Petal Color</b>	blue, yellow, pink or red	dull colors gray or white	blue, yellow, red or pink	white or green	red or orange
<b>Flower Shape</b>	bell or funnel shaped	flat or bowl shaped	upright	deep, tube shaped	deep, tube shaped
<b>Food</b>	nectar	pollen	nectar	nectar	nectar
<b>Sense of Smell</b>	Good	Good	Okay	Okay	Poor

Animal pollinators are responsible for about 90% of all plant pollination. We use over 1,000 pollinated plants for food, drinks, clothing, spices, and medicines. Honeybees are one type of pollinator that is in trouble. Over the last several winters, more than 25% of the honeybee population in the US has vanished. No one knows exactly why this is happening. Scientists refer to this mystery as “Colony Collapse Disorder” and are researching ways to reverse it.

*Here’s how you can help...*

### Action Steps

1. Create pollinator habitats.
2. Reduce the use of pesticides.
3. Minimize your environmental impact (buy organic).
4. Get out and enjoy nature!

### Directions

Create a cartoon strip (at least 4 boxes) focusing on one pollinator and an action step you can take to help protect pollinators. Don’t forget to add the garden setting (what type of flowers does your pollinator like?).