



Pollination



There is a wide variety of resources to support schools in developing an understanding about pollination with children.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

<https://pollinators.ie/schools/>

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.

There is a specific section for schools and here they have developed a Junior Version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in English and in Gaeilge. These answer questions such as;

- What is pollination?
- Who can pollinate?
- What plants need bees for pollination?

<https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Junior-Pollinator-Plan-2018-WEB-1.pdf>

<https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Junior-Pollinator-Plan-Irish-2018-WEB-1.pdf>

An additional Garden section gives good guidance on plants that pollinate and actions that can help gardens; https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Gardens_actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf

Paddy Madden & Engage With Nature

<https://www.engagewithnature.ie/>

This is a dynamic schools and garden website designed and managed by Dúlra Éireann that will assist teachers, students and gardeners in creating a sustainable environment and combating climate change. Filled with videos, resources and a particular section for Parent/Child activities, this will be invaluable support to teachers engaging in distance learning and again when returning to school.

Particular resources regarding pollination include;

- Blog post about bees <https://www.engagewithnature.ie/wildlife-gardening/>
- Blog audio about butterflies <https://www.engagewithnature.ie/butterflies/>
- Nectar for Butterflies video <https://www.engagewithnature.ie/ngr-may/#uael-video-gallery-cf98238-1>

The Ark, Dublin

<https://ark.ie/>

The Ark is a dedicated cultural centre for children. Integrate drama & the arts to your STEM with their production of 'Bees! A Musical', a show for ages 6+ online, filled with buzzing and songs, dancing and flying. Streaming link and info here: <https://ark.ie/events/view/online-bees> with a follow up classroom pack link at

<https://ark.ie/content/files/BEES! Classroom Activity Pack Final.pdf>

Gardening for Biodiversity (E-book)

<https://laois.ie/wp-content/uploads/Garden-Wildlife-Booklet-WEB-17MB.pdf>

This aim of this e- booklet is to assist everyone to help wildlife in their gardens, no matter how big or small, has been launched. The brainchild of Juanita Browne, the booklet was produced by Laois County Council with the assistance of Local Authority Heritage Officers across Ireland, with support from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Council.

Taking a very practical approach, the book details projects to help wildlife of all kinds under a range of headings, with tasks suitable for everyone from the total beginner to the more ambitious DIY enthusiast. A free copy is available here; <https://laois.ie/wp-content/uploads/Garden-Wildlife-Booklet-WEB-17MB.pdf>

Chapter 2 'A wildlife lawn/wildflower patch' and chapter 3 'Planting for Pollinators' are particularly useful for this topic.

An accompanying colouring books is available here; <https://laois.ie/wp-content/uploads/Garden-Wildlife-Booklet-WEB-17MB.pdf>

Sustainable Learning

<https://www.sustainablelearning.com/resource/pollinator-resources?destination=teaching-resources/pollination>

Created by and for teachers, Sustainable Learning was inspired by Bristol's year as European Green Capital in 2015. This website connects teachers with high-quality curriculum resources, expert knowledge and a useful events calendar, to help them inspire pupils all about sustainability.

A particular section for this topic was designed by Buglife; <https://www.buglife.org.uk/>. Buglife's brilliant B-Lines project is all about creating a network of wildflower meadows across the UK to help link existing wildlife areas together. In order to raise the profile of pollinators with primary school pupils, they have created a fantastic set of teaching resources, all of which fully support the National Curriculum. Containing lots of advice and teaching activity ideas, these learning materials will definitely help to create a buzz about pollinators in your classroom!

Activities include;

- Pollinator Bingo
- Creating Pollinator Homes
- Making a Maths Buzz
- How Plants Attract Pollinators
- Pollinator Facts
- Pollinator Poetry

Additional activities to those above include;

1. Record bee visitors to your garden/ your window box / your local green area. Keep a record over a week in your Learning Log using a tally system. Graph your results using a bar chart or trend graph. Consider the following questions;
 - What plant is the most popular one they visit?
 - Can you name the plant? If not take a photo and research it or share with class on Seesaw, Class Dojo or Google Classroom and see can they name it.
 - Why are the bees visiting this plant?
 - Can you make a detailed & annotated drawing of what you observe on this plant?
2. How can you increase bees coming to your garden? What actions could you take?
3. Prepare a wildlife report on the bees visiting your garden. Will you prepare a written report? Or will you record yourself using an audio or video app? This could be shared on class-based platform such as Seesaw, Class Dojo, etc.
4. Grow your own fruit or vegetables that will provide flowering plants for pollinators to feed on. How will you find out, which one will pollinate? Do you need different plants for different pollinators (bees, butterflies, bats, moths, birds, etc)?