



# Pollinators

Pollinators, like bats, butterflies, and bees, are animals that help to spread pollen from one plant to another so that more plants can grow. They are necessary for growing many fruits and nuts that we eat like almonds, cherries, bananas, avocados, tomatoes, and grapes, as well as most kinds of flowers. Today, many pollinators are losing their habitats (places where they live).

Learn more about pollinators by watching *Missing Bats in Sensible Flats* where Brigit explains how bats pollinate her cactus plants. Look out for the steps in the pollination process in the episode!



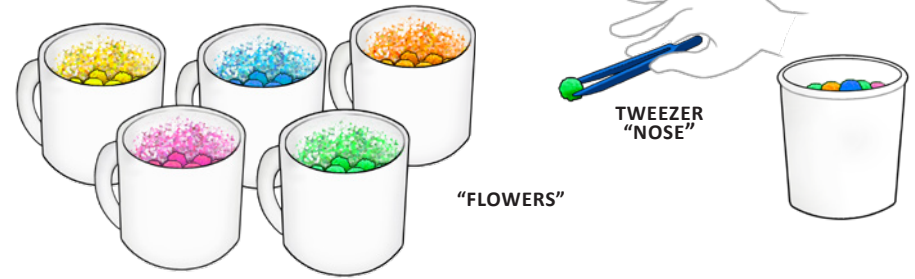
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A LINK TO THE CYBERCHASE EPISODE

## GET OUTSIDE: Portrait of a Pollinator

The first step to taking care of pollinators is understanding why they are important. Many people are scared of bees and bats, but they help us out in many ways. Spend some time in a flower garden to observe pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Some flies,



beetles, and moths are also pollinators. Practice respecting the pollinators at a safe distance. Then create your own "portrait of a pollinator" by drawing or taking a picture of what you see. Do some research to add fun facts to your portrait like a description of the pollinator's habitat, what it eats, how it moves, etc.



## EXPLORE: Be a Bat!

Play this game to see how bats and other pollinators help plants by spreading pollen from flower to flower.

### Materials:

- Cups
- Pompoms of different colors
- Colored sugar or confetti in the same colors as the pompoms  
Add food coloring to sugar or make confetti with a hole punch and tissue paper.
- Kid-friendly tweezers
- 60 second timer

### Instructions:

1. Coat the inside of several cups, each with a different color of sugar (pollen). These cups are your "flowers."
2. Fill the cups halfway with small pompoms (nectar) that match the color of the sugar in that cup and place around the room.
3. Get a pair of kid-friendly tweezers to be your pollinator "nose" and a cup to carry with you where you can collect pompoms.
4. Start a timer for 60 seconds. The goal is to collect as many different colored pompoms as you can by visiting all the cups around the room. You can only get one pompom each time you visit a flower. Pick up the pompoms one at a time with your tweezers, lift them out of the flowers, and drop them in your cup. Visit as many flowers as you can before the time is up.
5. After 60 seconds, check the flower cups to see if any pollen (sugar) traveled from one flower to another. If the colors mixed together anywhere, that means the flowers were pollinated!