

## Nature's Partners "WHO AM I" Game

### Preparation of Game Cards and Tags:

- Pages 5-10, "Facts About Pollinators" cards. Copy on 8 1/2" x 11" card stock, cut in half, and laminate if possible.
- Pages 11-15, Pollinator Name Tags. Copy on 8 1/2" x 11" card stock, cut in uniform sizes, laminate, punch holes and attach string so sign can be worn around the neck.

### Directions for Playing:

- Each player receives a set of "Facts About Pollinators" cards.
- A pollinator name-tag is worn on the back of each player so that they do not see it.
- Each player tries to determine what is on their name-tag by asking other players questions. The cards are to help them answer questions as well as ask questions to try to determine their "identity."
- Questions can only be answered "Yes" or "No."
- Once a player has guessed his "identity" he/she can turn the name tag to the front. A small simple prize can be awarded as players guess their "identity" if desired.
- Even though a player has learned their "identity" he/she may still continue playing by answering questions from other players.

### List of Pollinators & Other Insects

- Note: Several of the insects included in the list are not pollinators but may be easily mistaken for pollinators. If desired, they can be eliminated from the game.

#### **Flower Fly**

- Looks like a social bee or wasp
- Antennae are short with a bristle on the end
- Has only one pair of wings
- Cannot sting or bite
- Hairy
- Considered a significant pollinator

### **Yellow Jacket**

- Often mistaken for bees
- Sometimes called meat bees
- A social wasp
- A real pest at picnics
- Carnivorous, eats insects, meat
- Nests are made of paper and are usually in underground cavities
- Hairless, no brushes or pollen baskets
- Not usually considered a pollinator

### **Honey Bee**

- Social, lives in colonies in hollow trees or hives
- Used for honey production and agricultural pollination
- Hairy, color is tan with varying degrees of orange or brown
- Carry pollen in pollen baskets on their hind legs and it sticks to the hairs on their body
- Antennae very sensitive to touch and odor
- Two compound eyes detect color, shape and movement
- Three simple eyes detect light
- See colors in the spectrum from ultraviolet to orange (don't see red)
- Stings only once (dies once stinger is detached from body)
- Drinks nectar, honey, and water through a long hairy tube called a proboscis
- The whole colony can live through the winter

### **Bumble Bee**

- Only social bee native to North America
- Make nests close to or in the ground. Likes abandoned rodent holes.
- Large and very furry
- Yellow and black
- Wings are clear with black veins
- Slow and unsteady when flying.
- Can collect nectar and pollen from hard to get into flowers such as snapdragons
- Can sting more than once
- Only the queen survives through the winter

### **Butterflies**

- Every part of their thin body is covered with scales
- Fly only during the day when it is warm
- Fold their wings straight up over their bodies when resting
- Antennae have bare knobs at the end and are used for smell and also for hearing according to some experts
- Pass through 4 stages of development--egg, larva, pupa, adult
- In the larva stage they are recognized as caterpillars and can be destructive to flower gardens and crops because of their huge appetite.
- In the adult stage they are harmless and beautiful.
- A long tube that can be uncoiled for drinking nectar is called the proboscis
- Two large compound eyes detect color and movement
- Some are migratory and travel great distances

**Moths**

- Fly only at dusk and at night
- Every part of their body is covered with scales
- Have a plump body
- spread their wings flat when resting
- Antennae are either hairy or plummy and end in a point
- Attracted to light or white flowers that are open at night

**Leafcutter Bee**

- A solitary bee
- Cuts neat circles in leaves and uses the pieces to line their nests
- Builds nest in hollow twigs or other openings about the diameter of a pencil
- Usually will not sting unless trapped
- Help pollinate alfalfa

**Carpenter Bee**

- Solitary
- Hairy
- Females are bluish-black in color and can sting
- Males are blond or tan in color and can't sting
- Over 1 inch long and as wide as your thumb
- Nest in wood such as dead tree trunks, firewood or exposed wood on structures
- Nest consists of a tunnel about 10 inches long
- Female gathers nectar and pollen which is rolled into a ball that she pushes to the back of the tunnel where she lays an egg and seals it in a chamber about 1 inch long. This process is repeated until the tunnel is filled with chambers of growing bees

**Alkali Bees**

- Solitary
- Pollinate alfalfa better than honey bees

**Paper wasps**

- Black and yellow stripes on abdomen
- No hair on body
- Can't carry pollen
- Eats insects and spiders
- Builds nest out of "paper"

### **Hummingbirds**

- Important for pollinating flowers and eating insects
- Bright red, orange and pink flowers are more visible to them than other colors
- Red, tubular-shaped flowers are ideal
- Fragrance is not important
- Have the largest brain, heart, energy output, and breast muscles in proportion to body size of any bird.
- They feed 5 to 8 times/hour consuming half their weight in sugar each day.
- Nests are usually 1.5 inches in outer diameter and used year after year
- Eggs are 1/2 the size of a jelly bean and hatch in 14 to 21 days

### **Bats**

- Bats, like moths, do their foraging at night and are also attracted to white flowers.
- Pollen clings to their forehead as they reach into the flower with their long snout and bristly tongue to reach the nectar.
- The Saguaro and Agave cactus depend on bats for pollination
- They are responsible for pollinating bananas, cashews, peaches, avocados, mangos and other tropical fruits and vegetables
- There are nearly 1,000 species of bats
- They are generally divided into two groups; mega and micro bats
- Megabats live mostly in tropical parts of Australia, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific and eat fruit, nectar, or pollen.

### **Beetles**

- They are clumsy when they fly and can't smell or see colors very well.
- They are attracted to flowers that are white or green and either have a very strong scent or none at all.
- The flowers they visit must produce a lot of pollen so there is enough for food as well as pollination.
- They usually pollinate flowers with large openings where there is plenty of room to land.

## **Flower Fly**

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# **Honey Bee**

**Bumble  
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**Butterfly**

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**Moth**

# **Beetle**

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# **Hummingbird**

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# **Carpenter Bee**

# **Leafcutter Bee**

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# **Alkali Bee**

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# **Paper Wasp**

# Bat