



## SUMMER | Water

# Thirsty Bees & Butterflies: Creating Watering Spots for Pollinators

### Summary:

Pollinating is hard work. But so is trying to stay afloat in a big pool of water when you're just a little bee. Students will have the opportunity to create small watering spots for our hard-working pollinators, some of our most important garden creatures.

### Before Visiting the Garden:

**Gather:** One bucket of rocks or glass stones (decorated if you want!), water, and pie plate

**Explore:** Butterfly Camera <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/exhibits/always-on-display/butterfly-rainforest/canopy-cam/>

**Read:** *Butterfly Butterfly: A Book of Colors* by Petr Horacek

### In the Garden:

Pollinators are some of the hardest workers in the garden. Without pollinators, we don't have plants. Doing their job can make them quite thirsty!

### Questions to Explore:

- Do you see any butterflies in the garden?
- Can you hear any bees?
- Bees and butterflies like bright colors. Do you see any colors in the garden?
- They also need to drink water. Do you see any spots for them to get water?

### Activity:

It is hard for pollinators to drink out of big watering spots like pools, lakes, and rivers. Our job today is to find a way for them to stay hydrated in our garden.

1. Can you think of a way we could make a watering spot for pollinators using a pie plate and rocks?
2. Place the pie plate in a spot near some flowers, pour in the rocks, and add some water. Keep a sharp eye; perhaps you'll see some pollinators taking a break!

### Beyond the Garden | Preparing for Pollinators

Talk to your garden manager or local nursery about making your yard friendlier for butterflies and bees. Add a watering spot, some flowers, maybe even a feeder. Use the resources below to find out more information about pollinators.

### Continue Exploring | Supporting Materials

Pollinators: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/>

Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle: <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/activity/monarch-butterfly-life-cycle-and-migration/>

Friendly Gardens: <http://pollinator.org/guides.htm>