

# Pollinator Pack



**Pollinators are an essential part of nature.  
In order to make more plants, plants need to  
get pollen from their flowers to other flowers.**

When you see a bee buzzing around from flower to flower, they're spreading the pollen around. But it's not just bees – lots of creatures help pollinate plants! Moths, beetles, flies and even bats are pollinators.

This pack includes a pollinator trail to follow while you're at the Museum, as well as fun activities to do at home.



Government  
of South Australia



SOUTH  
AUSTRALIAN  
MUSEUM



# At the Museum: Pollinator trail

Recommended ages: 5 to 12

Location: South Australian Museum

There are many types of pollinators at the Museum.  
This trail can be completed in any order.

## Bees

Did you know that the Museum has its own beehive?  
There is a small door to the hive where the bees come and go.  
**Can you find it on the outside of the Museum building?**

Why did the bee go  
to the hairdresser?

To get a buzz-cut.

## Ants

Ants can also act as pollinators, as they move  
between different plants.

On the ground floor, there is a display of Aboriginal  
food – **can you find the pollinators here? What do  
you think they taste like?**

What is the biggest  
ant in the world?

An elephant.

Can you find the Yuendumu doors on Level 1?  
The school doors at Yuendumu were made to teach  
children about their country, including what's good to eat –  
like a nice juicy honey ant. **Can you find the door with the Honey  
Ant Dreaming story on it?** (Hint: it shows tracks and nests, not the  
ants themselves.)

## Native bees

Have a look in our Biodiversity Gallery and see what kinds of pollinators  
are there. **How many types of pollinators can you see?**

The yellow-and-black European honeybee is only one of many types of bees.  
Australia has over 1600 species of bee, including the blue-banded bee,  
which you can find here. **How big are they compared to honeybees?**

What did the  
bee say to the  
naughty bees?

Bee-hive yourself.





**Why do wasps never leave tips?**

Because they're sting-y.

## Wasps

Wasps are important pollinators for lots of different native plants. Some species of orchid can only be pollinated by a single species of wasp! These orchids have evolved to look like a female thynnid wasp, and the male wasp gets tricked into visiting the orchid and pollinating the flower. **Can you find the wasps?**

## Bats

Over 500 plant species rely on bats for pollination. When bats go out to find food at night, they often eat from flowers, spreading the pollen around and helping the plants to grow.

**Can you find a bat in the Biodiversity Gallery? What kind of bat is it, and where does it live?** (Hint: the Biodiversity Gallery moves from desert at the Northern end to the sea at the Southern end, so it's like you're moving through all the landscapes of South Australia. Will the bat be closer to the desert or the sea?)

**What do moths learn in school?**

Mothamatics!

## Moths

Like bats, moths are nocturnal pollinators, meaning they are awake at night. They make great pollinators because they transport the pollen on their furry bodies. **What's the biggest moth you can find in the Biodiversity Gallery?**

## Flies

When people think of pollen, they often think of bees, but flies are actually a common pollinator. In fact, flies pollinate the flowers of the cocoa plant – so without a very specific species of midge fly, we wouldn't have chocolate! Flies are also important pollinators of mango plants in Queensland!

**Can you find the flies in the Biodiversity Gallery?**

**What do you call a fly without wings?**

A walk.



**Why did the vampire need mouthwash?**

Because he had bat breath.



# How to build a bee hotel

Ages: 5+

Location: At home



Sadly, native bees don't have many places to rest. With bee hotels, we can provide a place in our gardens for them to nest, which means they can keep pollinating and helping plants grow. You may have seen some in the Parklands, like the Bee 'n' Bee project in Bonython Park. Here's how to make one at home, ready for the bees to visit in Spring.

You'll need a grown-up to help with this one.

## Materials:

- An untreated wooden plank around 10cm wide, cut into four
- Hollow wooden pieces with holes of between 2mm and 12mm (Bamboo is a good material for this)
- A saw, drill and screws
- A thin piece of wood or MDF for the back of the hotel
- A hook or other method of hanging the hotel

## Instructions

1. Using your four pieces of wooden plank, create a rectangular frame. Screw these pieces together.
2. Trim your hollow wooden pieces to around 10cm so that they will sit inside the frame, with the holes facing the front of the hotel.
3. Attach the back of the hotel, and the hook if needed.
4. Place your bee hotel in the garden, preferably hanging from a fence or a tree near some flowering plants.
5. With luck, female bees may come and lay their eggs and leave a store of pollen for the larvae. It will take a long time, but hopefully the bees will make a home in your garden!





# Acrostic garden poetry

Ages: 5+

Location: Outside – in your garden, or a park

You have to keep an eye out to spot pollinators! There are plants growing all around us – in our gardens, in your local park, on the sidewalk. Remember that as well as insects, birds and some native mammals can be pollinators as well, and if you're lucky to be out in the evening you might see a bat or a moth.

**To keep an eye out for pollinators:**

- **Pick a quiet spot where you can sit or stand for awhile.**
- **Listen for the noises around you. Can you hear any birds?**
- **Watch flowering plants for some time. Can you see any bees or flies floating around, going into the flowers?**

**What did you find?**

Once you've had a look outside, you might want to make a special poem about your discovery. An acrostic poem is one of the easiest – you take the letters of the insect you've discovered and write a word for each letter.

At the Museum, we've got bees,  
so we could write:

**B**eautiful

**E**legant

**E**xcited

**S**pinning around!





# Pollinator playlist

Ages: 5+

Location: At home

<http://youtube.com/TheSAMuseum>

The South Australian Museum has a lot of scientists working with pollinators. Find the Pollinator Playlist on our YouTube channel to see our scientists' work on bees, wasps and other pollinators.

## Insect identification

Not sure what you've found?

Take a picture and email [discovery@samuseum.sa.gov.au](mailto:discovery@samuseum.sa.gov.au), and they can help you identify your insect.

Have you 'bee'n having fun with the South Australian Museum? Post your pictures on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag **#mysamuseum** and tag **@southaustralianmuseum** to share your poems, bee hotels and insect finds.

**South Australian Museum**  
North Terrace, Adelaide  
[samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://samuseum.sa.gov.au)



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