

# PUZZLERS

## #33 | POLLINATOR POETRY



### Puzzle

Write a poem about pollinators.

### Standards & Connections

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5-12.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4

### Background:

Pollinators are critical to ecosystems. The work of pollinators helps ensure that we have food to harvest and contribute to overall plant health. In the U.S., it's estimated that pollination produces \$20 billion worth of products annually. Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and bees. The health of pollinator populations depends on citizens around the world doing their part to provide habitat, minimize pollution, and remain educated on how to improve their well-being.<sup>1</sup>

### Suggested Materials:

Access to the internet, paper, pen/pencil, Word, colored markers/pencils



#### IDENTIFY

Share the background information with the students, then share the puzzle to be solved. Determine constraints (e.g., time allotted, space, materials provided, etc.) and divide students into small groups.



#### IMAGINE

Ask a series of questions to help students brainstorm solutions to the puzzle. Encourage students to list all ideas – don't hold back! Before moving on, make sure each group selects a solution that fits within the constraints.

**Ask:** How can you solve this puzzle? Which of your ideas can you build a prototype for given the constraints?



#### DESIGN

Students diagram the prototype, identify the materials needed to build the prototype, and write out the steps to take. Students describe the expected outcomes.

**Ask:** What steps will you take to create your solution? What do you expect your solution to look like and be able to do?



## CREATE

Students follow their design plan and build their prototypes. Monitor their progress and remind them about how much time they have.



## TEST & IMPROVE

Students evaluate their creation and compare it with the expected outcomes. Students seek areas of improvement and make changes where needed.



## SHARE

Students share their solution to the puzzle and communicate lessons learned.

**Ask:** What was your biggest takeaway? What would you do differently?

## Additional Resources:

For more background information on this topic, please visit [www.purpleplow.org](http://www.purpleplow.org).



**Have your students group up and turn their poems into songs!**

<sup>1</sup>The Pollinator Partnership. (2011). Pollination fast facts. Retrieved from [https://pollinator.org/PDFs/NPW/Pollination%20Fast%20Facts%20\(3\).pdf](https://pollinator.org/PDFs/NPW/Pollination%20Fast%20Facts%20(3).pdf)