

Let's help the pollinators!

Comes with your
very own plantable
pollinator seed
paper!

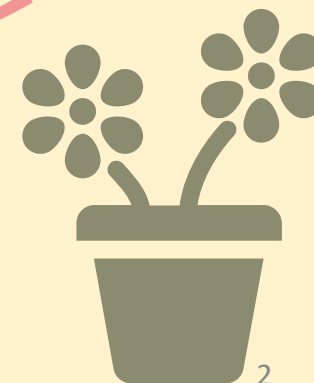


These plants will
be a great
addition to any
garden!



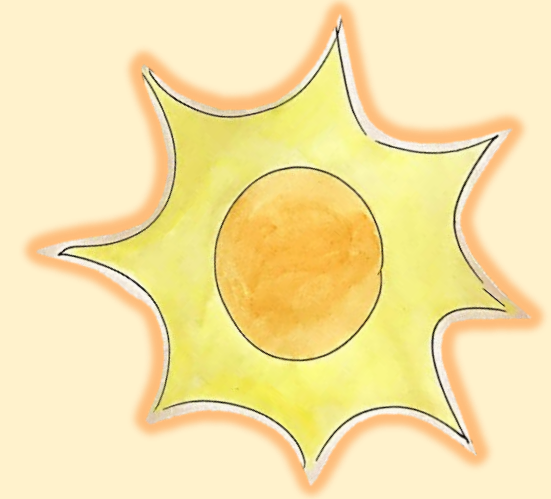
Plantable pollinator seed paper instructions:

1. Plant in a garden or in a pot filled with potting soil.
2. Put a very thin layer of soil (0.3 cm) overtop of the paper.
3. Water a little bit every day during first week to keep the paper damp.
4. Continue to water as needed once sprouts appear.



It was springtime. The days were getting warmer and sunnier and everyone was looking forward to the summer holidays.

But before this school year came to an end, Mrs. Leafcutter had something very special planned for her class . . .



"Good morning!", she greeted her students one April day. "I am very excited to tell you that I have invited a close friend of mine to come talk to you today. Everyone, meet Tina B.!"

Mrs. Leafcutter looked expectantly towards the open classroom window and a few moments later, in flew . . .

... a honey bee!

The class
couldn't believe
what they were
seeing.



By now the class was wondering why there
was a honey bee in their classroom.

"Mrs. Leafcutter, why did you invite Tina B.
into our class today?", a boy named Leo
asked.

A bee?!

Woah!

Cool!!

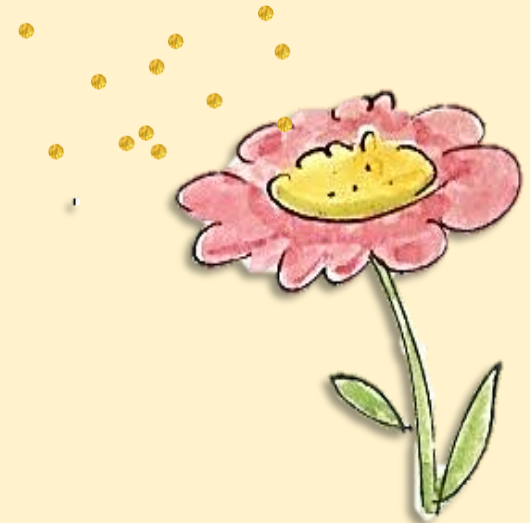
"Good question Leo!" Mrs. Leafcutter
said. "Because it's spring, I felt like
now is a great time to teach you
about the importance of pollinators
and what they do for us. This is a
very important topic because we are
actually losing more and more
pollinators every year. Since Tina is a
pollinator herself, she will be able to
tell you what that means for us and
how we can help."

And with that, Tina introduced herself to the class.

Hello everyone! Your teacher mentioned that I am a **pollinator**. I want to tell you a little bit more about why you need us!



"Being a pollinator means that I collect and move pollen – that dusty yellow stuff – from one flower to another. This process is called **pollination**! Did you know that this movement of pollen is what allows plants to grow food for us?"



"What's worrying is that every year there are fewer and fewer pollinators because we are having a harder time finding food as well as places to live."

"Now, you might be asking yourself
"how does this affect me?"

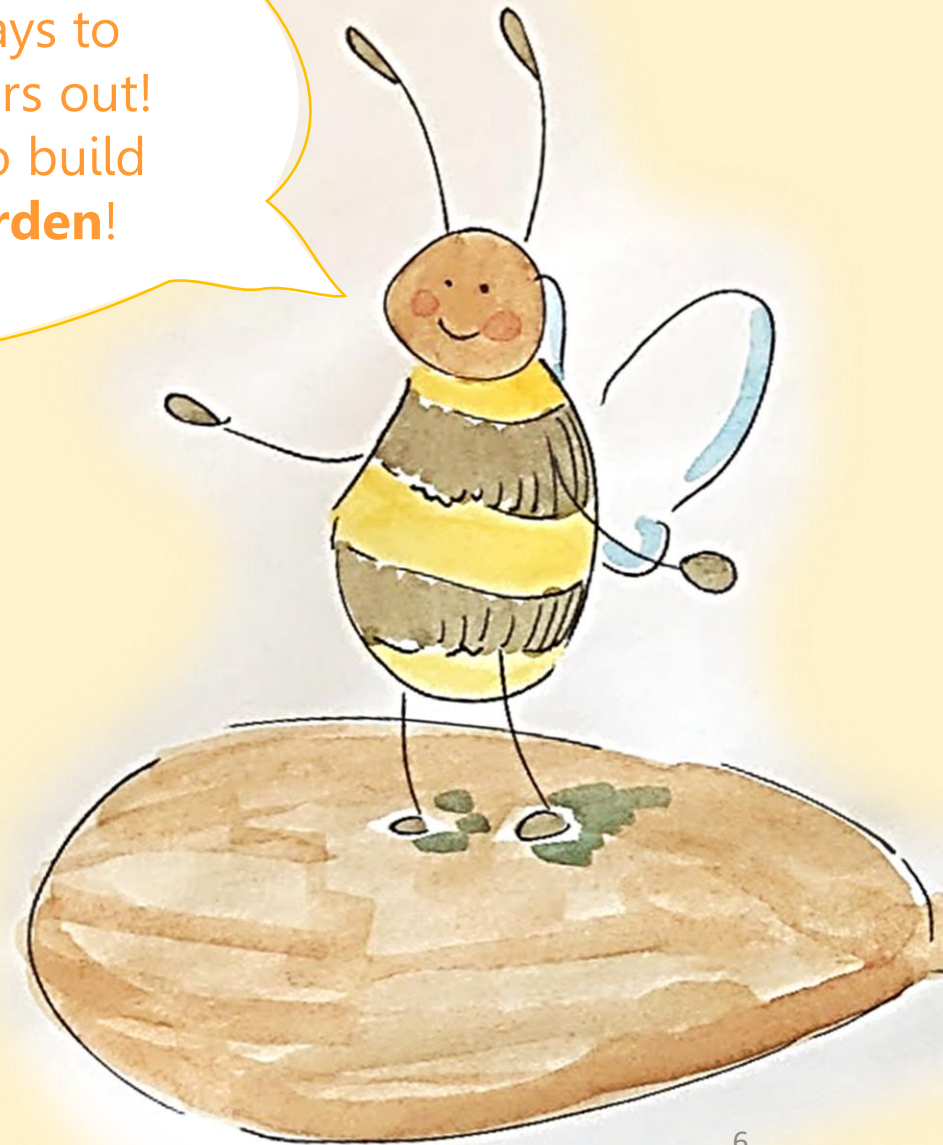
"Like I said, many plants need their flowers
to be pollinated in order for the plant to
grow fruits or vegetables," Tina explained.
"How many of you like to eat apples or
strawberries or cucumbers? Or any other
kinds of vegetables and fruits?"

Almost every student raised their hand.



"With fewer pollinators around, fewer plants can
be pollinated meaning that fewer of those foods
can be produced and eventually eaten by you."

But don't worry, there
are still many ways to
help the pollinators out!
And one way is to build
a **pollinator garden!**



Tina, what's in
a pollinator
garden?

That's a great
question! Let me
show you . . .



"A pollinator garden is a collection of plants that pollinators really like. Usually this has to do with how much nectar and pollen the flowers produce," Tina explains.

"Pollinators love to feed on nectar, because it's like sugar water and gives them lots of energy to carry around pollen from one plant to another!"



Mrs. Leafcutter left the class with Tina while she went out to buy plants for the garden. Everyone was really eager to get started!

"From what Mrs. Leafcutter has told me, she would like us all to plant a pollinator garden together. And she has found a spot for it right here at your school," Tina explained to the class.

"That way you'll be making sure that all of the pollinators in the area have enough food to get through the season! And that will also help them to overwinter and come back next spring!"

Now, who's excited to get gardening?!

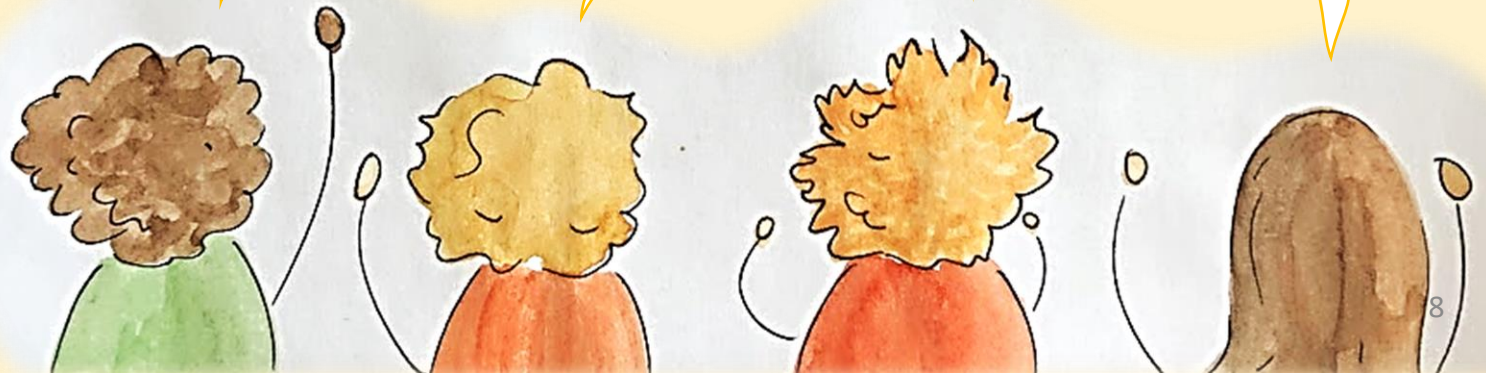


I am!

Me too!

Yeah!

Let's do it!

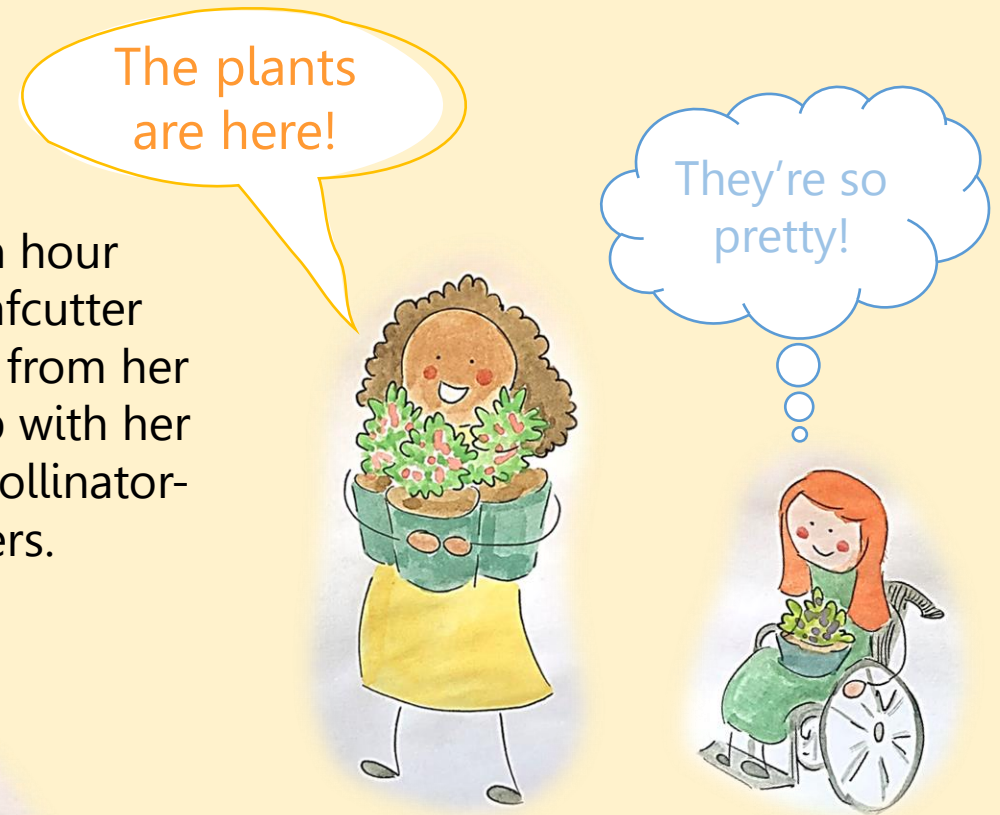


"Oh look!" the students said, "our custodian Mr. Carpenter is helping us!"

"I sure am! Wouldn't want to waste an opportunity to help out the pollinators," Mr. Carpenter chuckled. "Now why don't you all grab some shovels and help me dig this thing. Watch out for those worms, though."



About half an hour later, Mrs. Leafcutter had returned from her shopping trip with her arms full of pollinator-friendly flowers.



"Yay!" the class exclaimed.

Everyone ran over to get a flower pot and began planting the flowers all throughout the new garden. After everything had been planted, Mr. Carpenter applied some mulch. Now the pollinator garden was ready to go.

A few weeks later . . .

The garden was in full bloom and full of food to help our dear pollinators. All types of them were swarming around! Can you find them all?

That hard
work really
paid off!

I didn't know
hummingbirds
were pollinators!

And
butterflies!

And me, I'm a
bumble bee!



The end!



Image Reference

- Of The Earth. *Pressed flower seed paper*. Pinterest [Internet]. [Retrieved 2021, April 2]. Available from: <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/488218415825048479/?autologin=true>