

let's BEE friends



Bee and Pollinator Activities for Kids





Hi! I'm Buzz the bee!

I'm a solitary bee, which means I don't make honey or live in a colony. I live alone and like to keep to myself. I don't even want to sting you because I would rather find food, lay eggs, and pollinate plants at the same time.

But I'm not the only pollinator out there—my friends are important pollinators too! Bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, ants, flies, and wasps are all pollinators. Even birds and bats can pollinate too!

Join me to learn about bees and pollination!



Build a Bee Hotel



Get help from an adult when working with tools. Then put up your bee hotel near some flowers so me and my friends will be able to

find it and have food near by. Place it off the ground, or attach to a tree or fence post with nails or a small rope. Make sure it won't move in the wind.



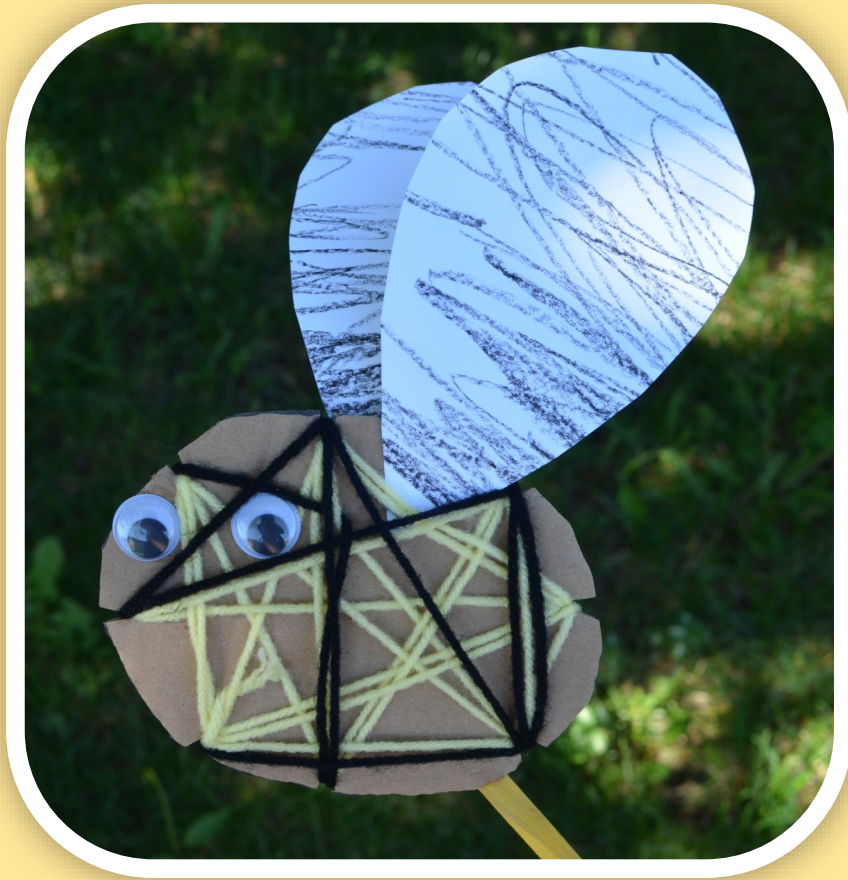
You Will Need:

- A waterproof container, such as a milk carton, bucket, pipe or old crate.
- Wood blocks or logs
- Straws or natural stalks, such as bamboo or raspberry canes

How To Make It:

1. Drill holes into wood blocks, ranging from 7/64, 1/8, 11/64, 3/16 or 1/4 inch diameter. Use 6" or 12" long drill bits if possible.
2. Insert wood blocks into container. Add straws or natural stalks, such as bamboo.
3. Hang your bee hotel outside, facing south or southeast.
4. Watch your bee hotel for bees!
5. Find out how to take care of your bee hotel at www.ealt.ca/protecting-pollinators

Wrap up a Bee Puppet



Take your puppet outside and pretend to collect pollen and nectar from flowers. You could even listen to *The Flight of the Bumblebee* while running around to get some exercise!

You Will Need:

- Cardboard
- Yellow and black yarn
- Black marker or crayon
- White paper
- Popsicle stick
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Scissors

How To Make It:

1. Draw an oval onto a piece of cardboard box.
2. Cut out the oval, and make several shallow notches around the oval.
3. Start wrapping the yarn by placing one end in a notch, then continue wrapping the yarn around the oval.
4. Scribble on to a piece of white paper, then cut out two large tear drops for wings.
5. Use glue to attach the eyes, wings and popsicle stick for the stinger.

Roll a Pipe Cleaner Bee



The main differences between bees and wasps are that bees have more hairs on their bodies, and bees have barbed stingers (with small hooks) but wasps have smooth stingers. Wasps also feed insects to their larvae, but bees only eat pollen and nectar. There are lots of solitary wasps that aren't aggressive, and are great pollinators too.



You Will Need:

- Black, yellow and white pipe cleaners
- Glue

How To Make It:

1. Twist a black and yellow pipe cleaner together.
2. Twist them around your finger. Tuck in ends.
3. Cut a white pipe cleaner into 4 equal pieces.
4. Twist the ends of one piece to make a tear drop shape for wings.
5. Insert wings into black and yellow pipe cleaners. Secure with glue.

Make a Play Bee Hotel



In nature, some solitary bees find holes in dead trees or fallen logs to lay their eggs. Others make nests in the ground.

You Will Need:

- Shoe box or tissue box
- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Brown and green construction paper
- Stickers or paper flowers
- Scissors



How To Make It:

1. Place toilet paper or paper towel rolls into the box.
2. If desired, decorate the outside of the box with construction paper, to make the box look like a tree.
3. Use your pipe cleaner bees to pretend to pick up pollen from the flowers and bring it back to the bee hotel, where the female lays her eggs.

Move Pollen Like a Bee



You Will Need:

- Paper flowers
- Yellow and orange pom poms
- Tweezers or tongs

How To Make It:

1. Make paper flowers by either cutting out shapes from construction paper, using premade die cuts, cutting photos from magazines, or printing and colouring the flowers on the next page.
2. Place pom poms in the centre of each paper flower.

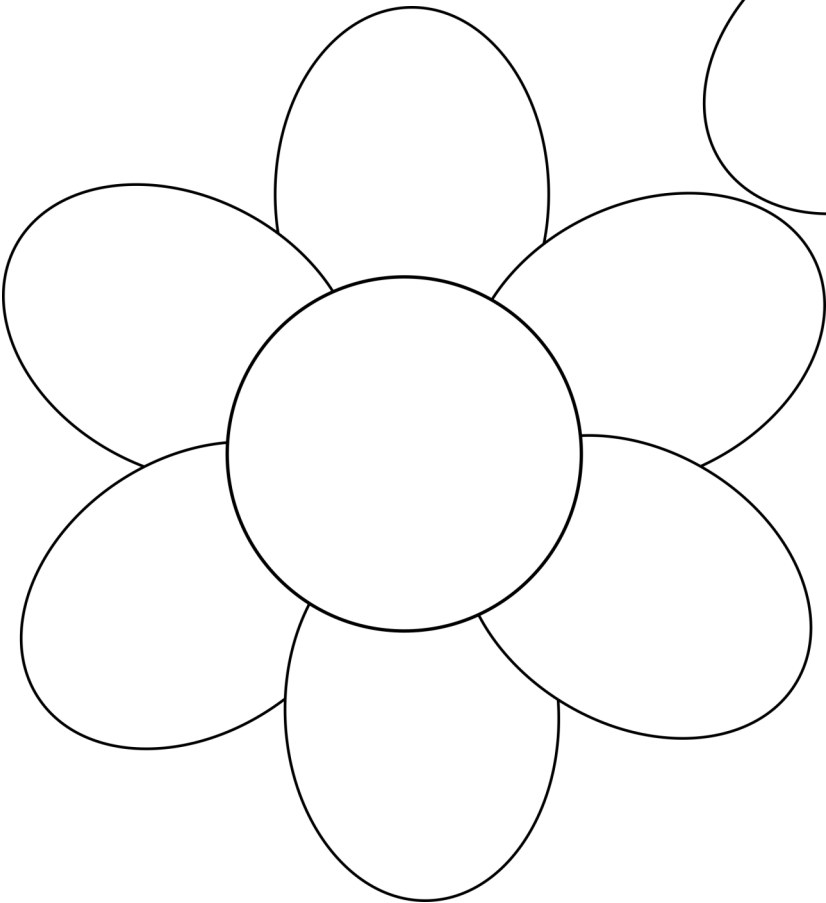
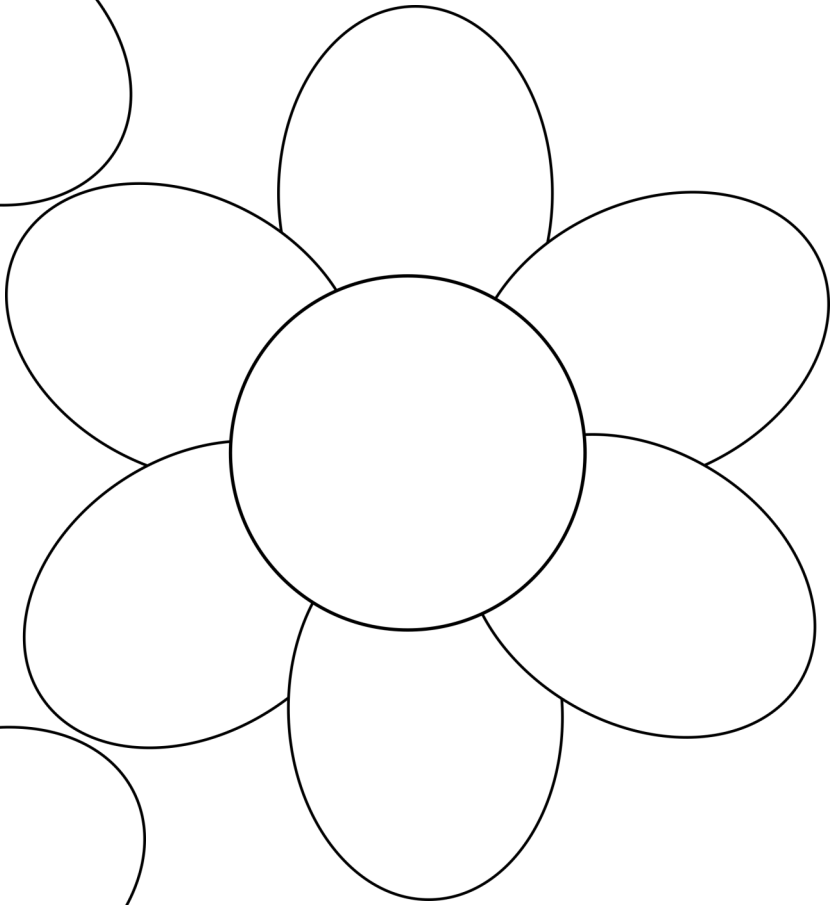
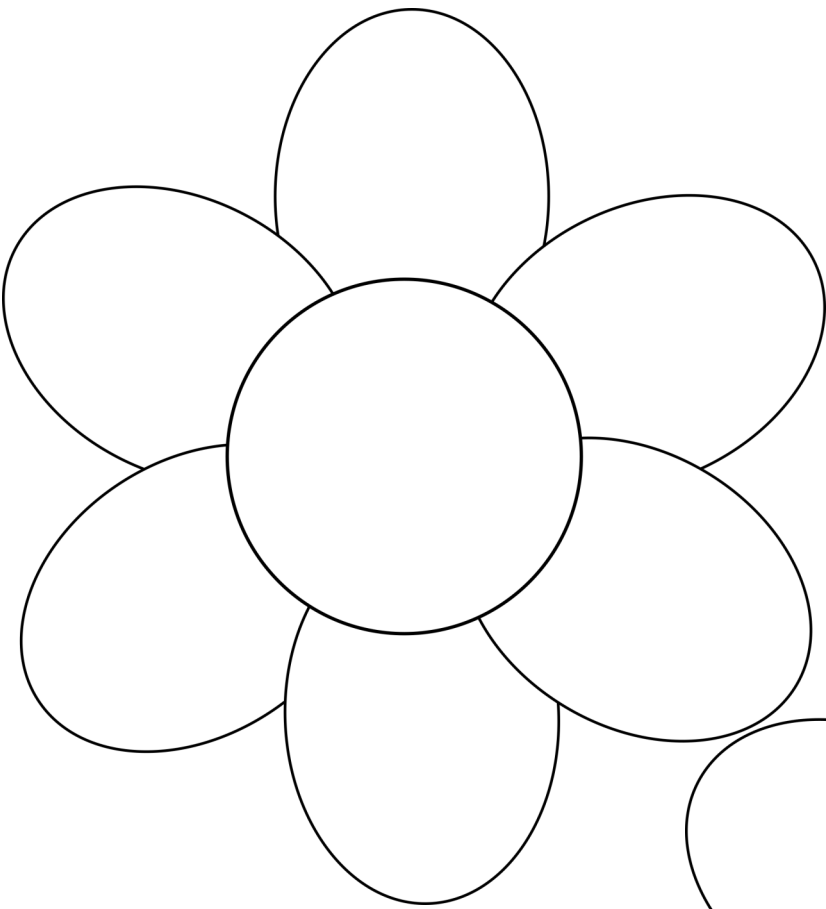
How To Play:

- The pom poms are pollen on the flowers, and you are the bee. Pick up the pom poms from one flower and transfer them to another one.
- Young children can use their hands, older children can use tweezers or tongs. Race to see who can transfer their pollen the fastest to see who is the busiest bee!



Flowers are adaptations for pollination, attracting pollinators with bright colours and attractive scents.

When bees visit a flower, pollen sticks to the hairs on their body, and is transferred from flower to flower.



Dissect a Flower



Can you find all the parts of the flower? Try experimenting with different types of flowers from your garden or the florist. Lilies, alstroemerias and snapdragons work well. Try roses, daisies or mums too!

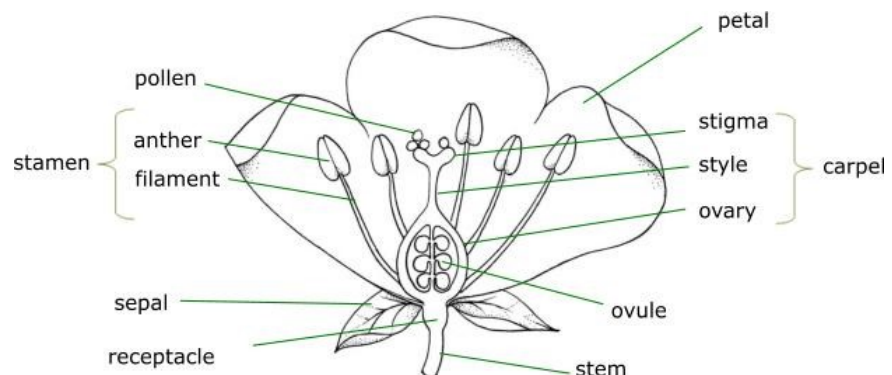


You Will Need:

- Large flowers from the garden or florist, such as lilies, snapdragons, daisies or tulips.
- Scissors or knife
- Tweezers

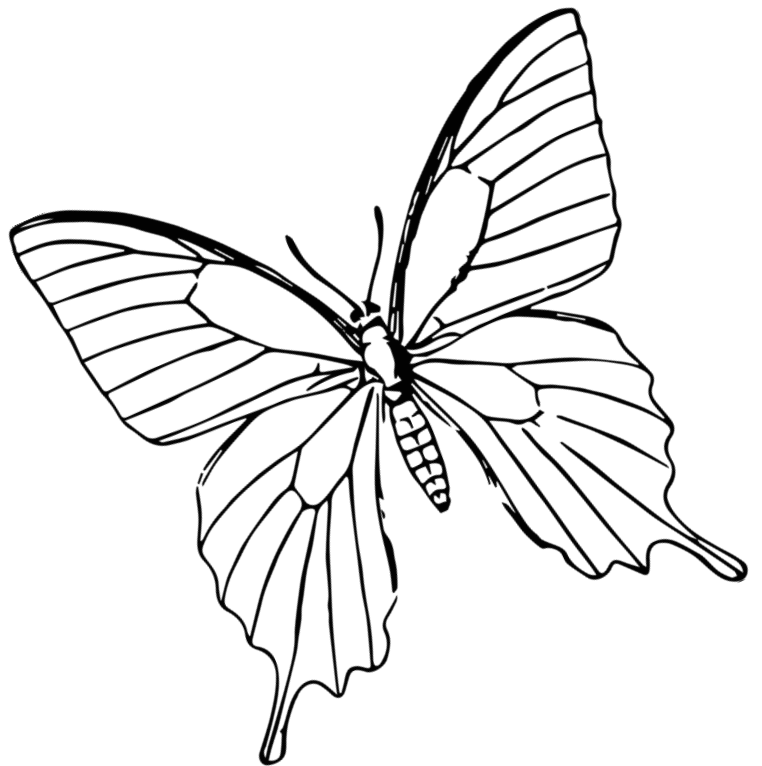
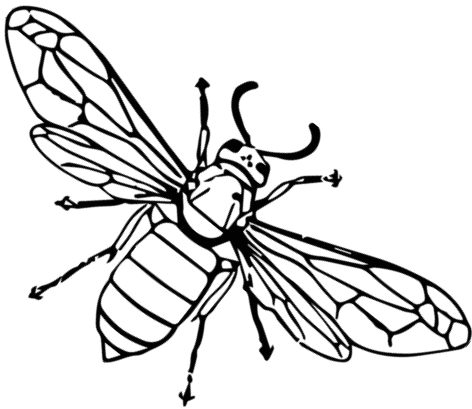
How To Make It:

1. Use tweezers and scissors or a knife (with adult help) to carefully pull apart the pieces of the flower.
2. See if you can identify the different parts of the flower, based on the diagram below.





BEE yourself



BEE a Pollinator



While collecting pollen and nectar, pollen gets stuck on the hairs on a bee's body, and some bees have a special place on their body to

carry the pollen. When the bee moves around, the pollen rubs off onto a different part of the flower. The pollen then moves inside the flower, so that the plant can make fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds!

You Will Need:

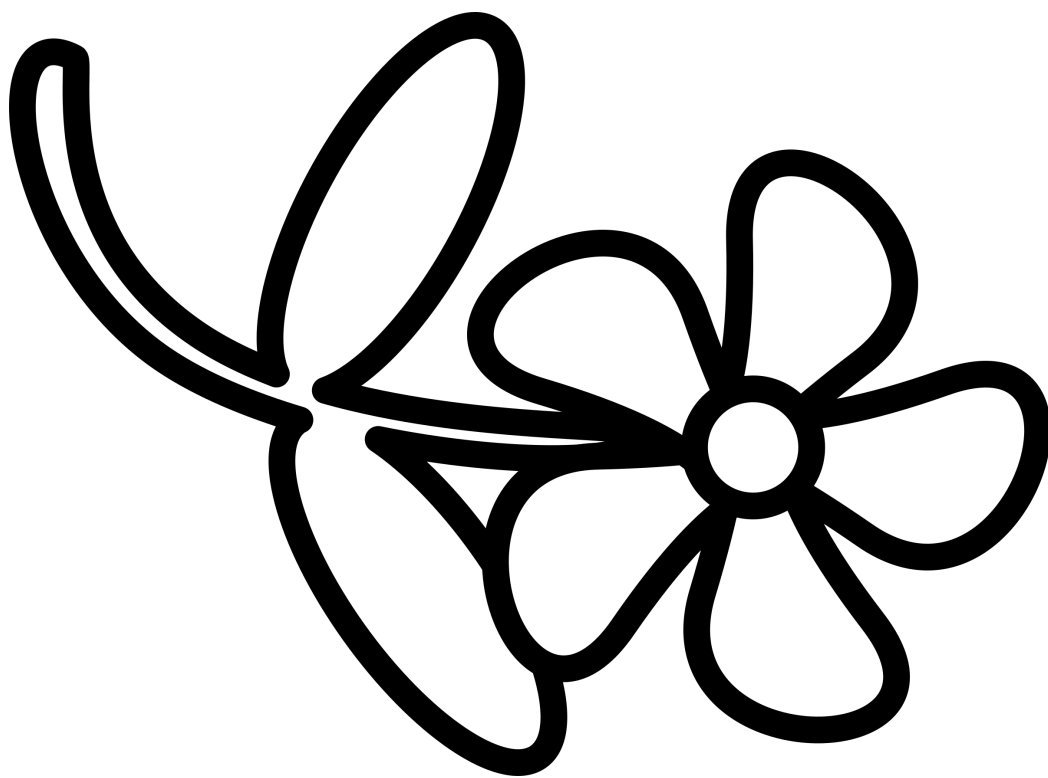
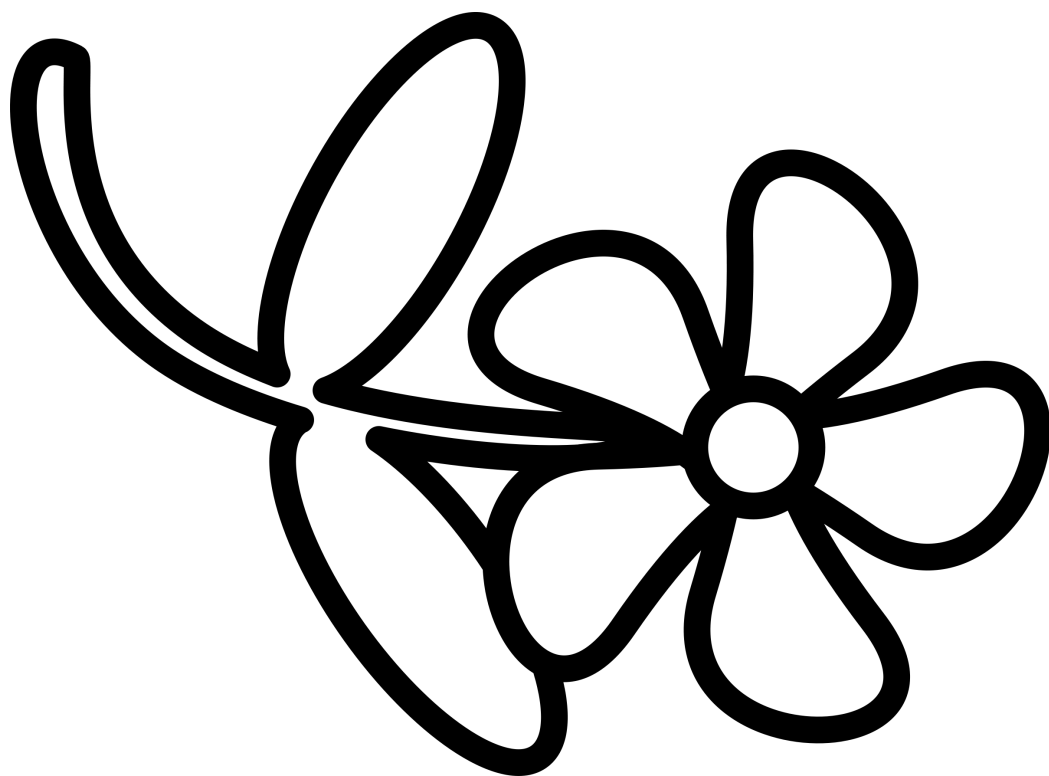
- Cheetos
- Paper bags
- Pictures of flowers
- Glue stick
- Bee finger puppet (optional)

How To Make It:

1. Glue pictures of flowers onto paper bags. Draw your own onto the bag, or print or photocopy the following page.
2. Add a handful of Cheetos to each bag.

How To Play:

- Pretend the bags of Cheetos are flowers and your hand is a bee. Use a bee finger puppet, or a bee sticker on your hand, if you'd like.
- As you snack on the Cheetos, notice that the orange "pollen" stays on your fingers. Don't lick your fingers!
- Touch the picture on the outside of your bag, or someone else's. What happens?



Make a Bee Bath



You Will Need:

- Bird bath or small dish
- Rocks

Just like birds need water, so do bees and other pollinators. You can help us out by putting out a small dish of water next to your bee hotel or garden, or put some rocks in a bird bath so that we have something to land on before we take a sip!



Make a Squishy Bee



There are thousands of bees in the world, most of which are solitary bees that live alone. Some bees, like bumblebees and honeybees, live together in colonies or in hives.



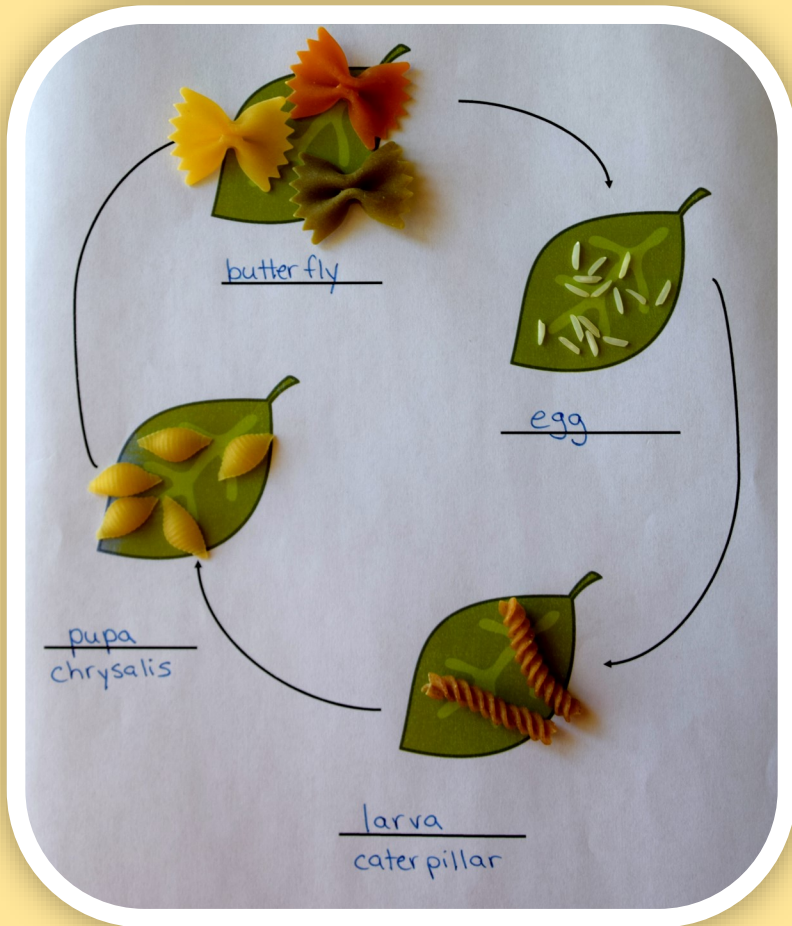
You Will Need:

- Yellow balloon
- Black marker
- Funnel
- Flour

How To Make It:

1. Blow up the balloon and let the air out again to stretch out the balloon.
2. Insert the funnel into the balloon, then slowly add flour, and tie up the balloon.
3. Use a black marker to draw lines and a face on the balloon to make a bee.

Learn the Lifecycle of a Butterfly



Butterflies and moths are important pollinators too! When they drink nectar from flowers, they move pollen around in a plant, and carry it to other flowers as well.

You Will Need:

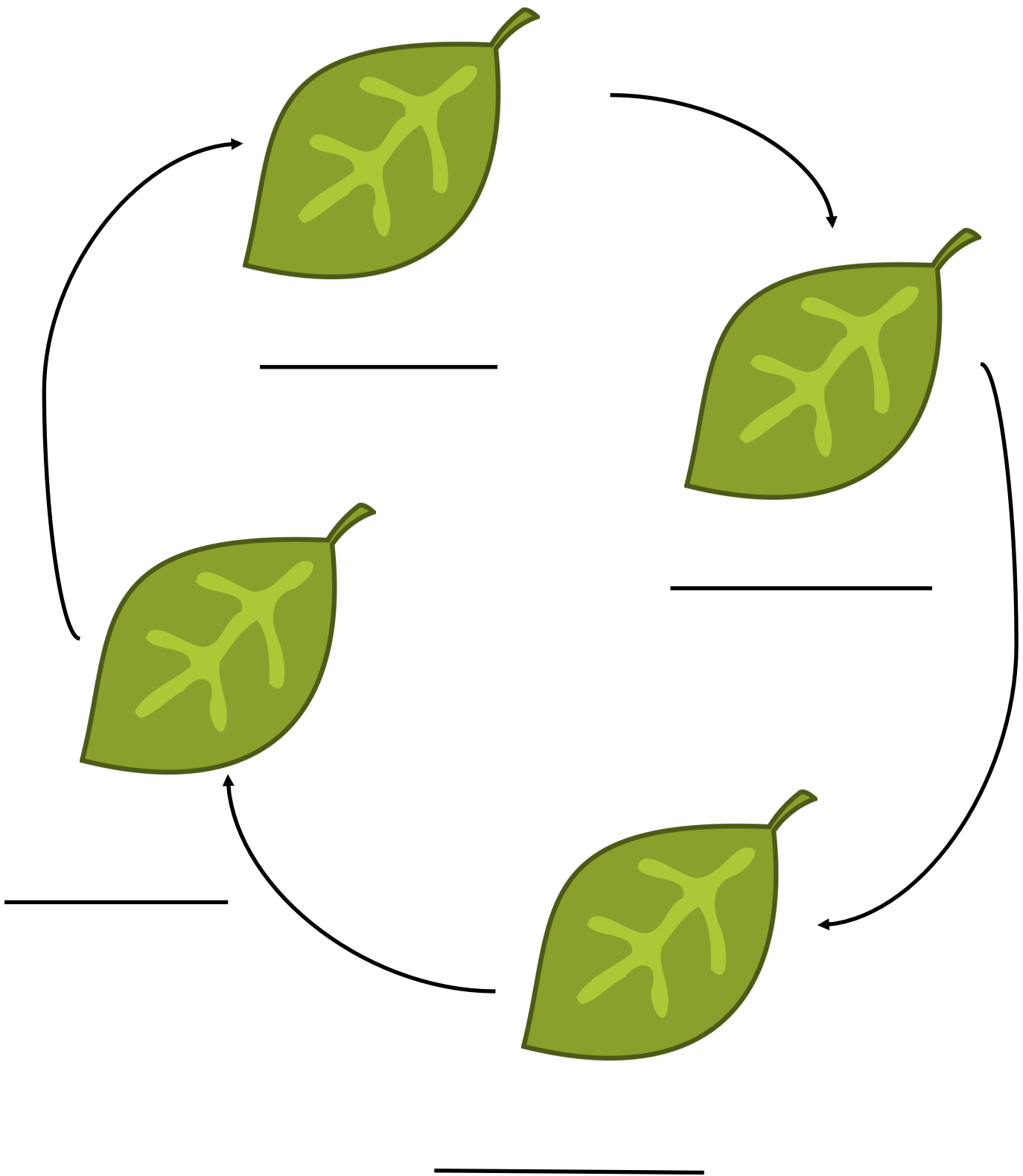
- Very small amounts of rice, fusilli, shell pasta and bow tie pasta
- Paper
- Glue
- Marker, pen or pencil

How To Make It:

1. Print or photocopy the following page, or design your own.
2. Use glue to attach pieces of pasta to the paper, to represent the different stages of the butterfly life cycle.
3. Label each stage of the life cycle:
 - Butterflies lay their tiny eggs on leaves. Use rice to represent eggs.
 - When the egg hatches, out comes a caterpillar. The caterpillar eats and eats until it forms itself into a chrysalis. Use fusilli pasta to represent a caterpillar (larva).
 - Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar is changing into a butterfly. Use shell pasta to represent the chrysalis (pupa).
 - A butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. Use bow tie pasta to represent a butterfly.



Lifecycle of a Butterfly





The Edmonton and Area Land Trust is a charity dedicated to conserving important natural areas in the Edmonton region. Our conservation lands provide essential habitat for wild species, opportunities for local residents to connect with nature, and provide numerous environmental, social and health benefits for everyone.

You can conserve local nature by volunteering or donating!

Visit www.ealt.ca

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Visit www.ealt.ca/kids for more information about nature, including activities to help kids learn about and connect with the natural environment.