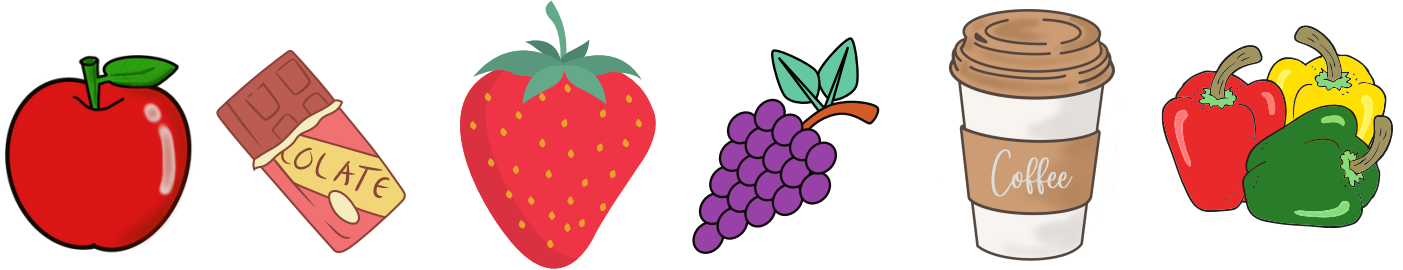


Pollinators!

A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma).

This movement of pollen results in the plant being fertilised. This is required for plants to produce fruits, seeds, and young plants. Whilst some plants can self-fertilise, most require cross pollination with another plant of the same species. These plants rely on the wind or pollinating animals such as insects to move the pollen from plant to plant.

Do you know what these foods have in common?



Answer: They all rely on pollination!

Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies and small mammals help to pollinate plants that are responsible for bringing us all of these foods.



Did you know?

It is estimated that one out of every three bites of food you eat exists because of the efforts of pollinators!

How can you protect pollinators?

1. Plant pollinator friendly plants such as hyacinth, primrose and lavender.
2. Leave a patch of your lawn to grow into a wild area.
3. Provide water for pollinators.
4. Avoid using pesticides.
5. Provide nest sites for wild bees and habitats for other pollinators.

What else could you do?



Peacock butterfly

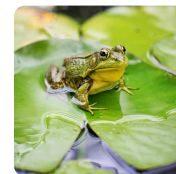
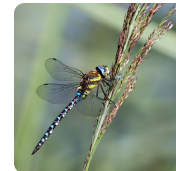
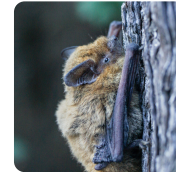


Speckled wood butterfly

Pollinators and Their Predators

It is important to protect the pollinator population as they provide an important food source for animals higher up the food chain.

Can you match the pollinator to its predator?



They rub their prey against hard surfaces to prevent being stung before eating.

Their prey come out at night and often have furry bodies that absorb sound to prevent predators from using echolocation to find them.

Their favourite prey occasionally pesters humans, but spends most of their time drinking nectar.

Their prey often have colourful wings, sometimes with large "eye spots" to trick predators into thinking they are much larger!

Questions

1. What would happen to the prey population if the predator population is reduced?
2. Explain why this is a problem, using an example to aid your explanation.
3. Draw a food chain that includes at least 4 different species which rely on one another.
4. Label the parts of your food chain to show producers, consumers, prey and predators.
5. Find out what the term 'biodiversity' means. Give an example of something that could be done in a garden or park to improve biodiversity.