Spotlight On: POLLINATORS!



Pollinator Spotlight Grouping: Unexpected Allies

Bring the Excitement of Pollinators to Your Visitors!

The intricate relationship between plants and the animals that pollinate them is fascinating and complex. Far from simple flowers attracting a butterfly or a bee, plant pollination is key to the very survival of the planet!

Spotlight On: POLLINATORS! is a temporary installation suitable for zoos, conservatories, butterfly exhibit enclosures, arboretums, or other education-based installations. Oversize graphic pollinator pairings are accompanied by supportive information which provide the buidling blocks of learning all about pollinators.

Honeybees and More

Did you know that there are more than 4,000 native bee species in the United States? Or that these native species perform more pollination than our iconic friend the honey bee? Or that moths, beetles, and even flies have a part to play in the pollination game?

And when it comes to the plants and their blossoms, their evolutionary stories are complex and fascinating. Did you know that flower shapes have evolved specifically to be as successful as possible at depositing pollen grains on their pollinators? Their sugary nectar is only there to attract them. Those pollen grains are the real story.

Spotlight On Pollinators presents these complex topics in simple terms in a colorful, engaging way.

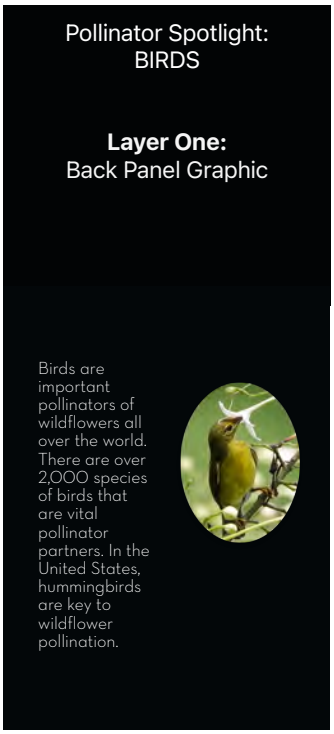


Exhibit Design Details

Custom graphic panels are layered to provide visual interest, and feature pollinators paired with their chosen flower blossom. Intended to be displayed in groups of three along gallery wallspace, each graphic measures approximately three feet by seven feet. Running feet for each set is recommended at 15 feet.

Each set of pollinator graphics can be placed throughout a gallery or even throughout disjointed spaces within a building, to allow for flexible installations and independent learning experiences. An affordable and engaging addition to any programming initiative, this exhibit brings home important conservation messaging for visitors of all ages.





Layer Two: Flowering Plant



Layer Three: Pollinator Species

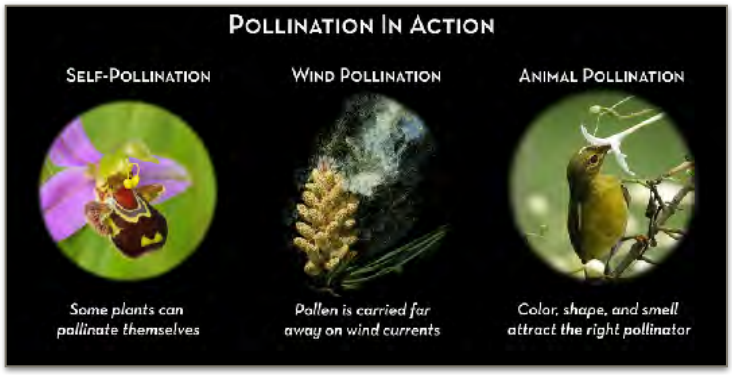


Content Outline and Interpretive Messaging

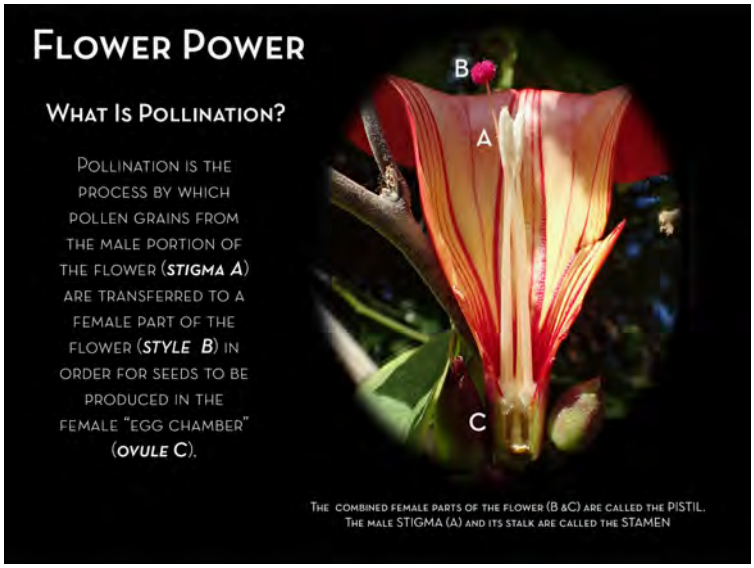
Grouping One: Introductory Area (Wall Graphics)

Graphic panels with pertinent information introduce the Pollinators. Topics covered include:

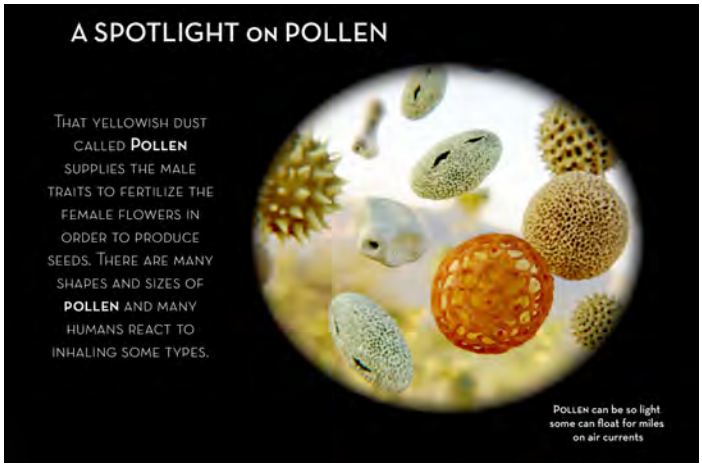
What is Pollination? *Fun Facts and Data about the Importance of Pollination*



How Does It Work? *Flower Anatomy and Elements of Successful Pollination With Spotlight Graphic Element*



What is Pollen? *Macro View Spotlight Graphic Element*



Grouping Two: Winged Wonders

Winged insects of all types play a crucial role in pollinating flowers as they fly from one blossom to another in search of nectar. This section shines the spotlight on the familiar butterfly, and also on the unexpected pollinator groups of moths and beetles.

Spotlight:

Butterflies *Familiar and easy to observe, butterflies are active day flyers with complex relationships with plants of all kinds. Flower shape and color play an important role.*

Moths *Important pollinators, moths are varied in their life habits and not as easily observable, as most are active at night. Night-blooming flowers are their nectar source.*

Beetles *Beetles are the oldest group of plant pollinators, and are among the first insects to ever visit flowers.*











Grouping Three: Marvelous Mammals

While the emphasis on pollination typically focuses on insects, there are many other types of animals that play a role in plant pollination. This section highlights mammals as one of those different groups of animals that are responsible for pollination, and tells some of their stories.

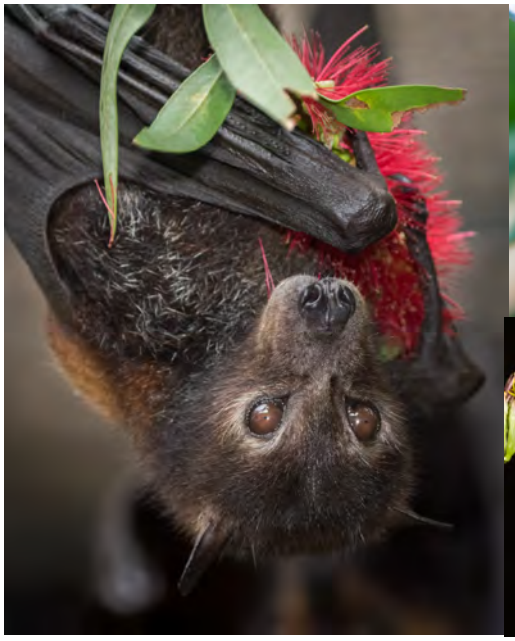
Spotlight:

Bats *Bats are pollinator specialists, which means that there are certain plants that are only able to be pollinated by specific bat species. Some examples of these plants include mango, some types of bananas, and agave plants.*

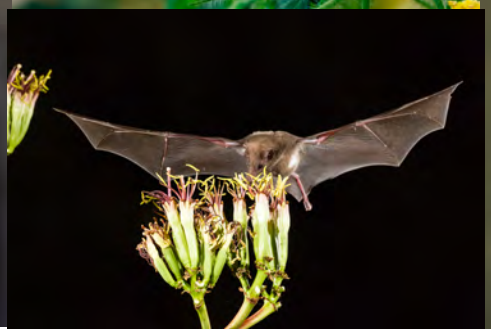
Harvest Mice and Other Rodents *Mice feed on the sweet nectar of their chosen plant, carrying pollen grains on their fur as they visit from flower to flower.*

Humans *Hand pollination takes place when natural pollinators are not able to complete the job. There are many reasons why people may need to pollinate in the place of other animals.*











Grouping Four: Unexpected Allies

Many plants need highly specialized pollinator partnerships, while others take a more general approach to pollination. This topic is explored alongside other fascinating pollinator animal groups.

Spotlight:

Hummingbird *These intriguing birds have a unique mechanism for getting the most nectar possible out of each sip from a flower.*

Gecko *Geckos have a small narrow snout and long tongue that allows them to feed on one of their favorite food sources: nectar.*

Flies, Gnats and Midges *The smallest known pollinator is a tiny midge, which is the only pollinator for the cacao plant. Chocolate production depends on pollination!*









Grouping Five: The Buzz on Bees

While the European honey bee is arguably the most well-known of all bees, native bees, bumble bees, and other bee specialists are irreplaceable in the plant pollination story.

Spotlight:



Honey Bee *The most well-known bee species, honey bees are important pollinators and are not native to North America.*

Solitary Bees *Not all bees live in colonies. Many species of native bees are solitary.*

Bumble Bee *These familiar bees perform a specific type of pollination called Buzz Pollination—their heavier bodies are able to effectively pollinate plants that others can't.*







SUMMARY: Conservation Corner: What Can You Do?

Now that you've learned all about pollinators and their importance, what can you do to help? This section highlights the many conservation initiatives, organizations, and local activities that can be found to support pollinators.

Spotlight:

Plant a Pollinator Garden. Flowering plants and host plants for growing pollinators are equally important. Learning what to plant to attract pollinators will be explained.

Get Involved. Eastern Monarch butterflies travel across the country to northern Mexico each winter. Citizen scientists can help by tagging them for tracking during their journey.

Connect With Nature. Sitting still and observing your own environment will uncover some amazing secrets!







Specifications

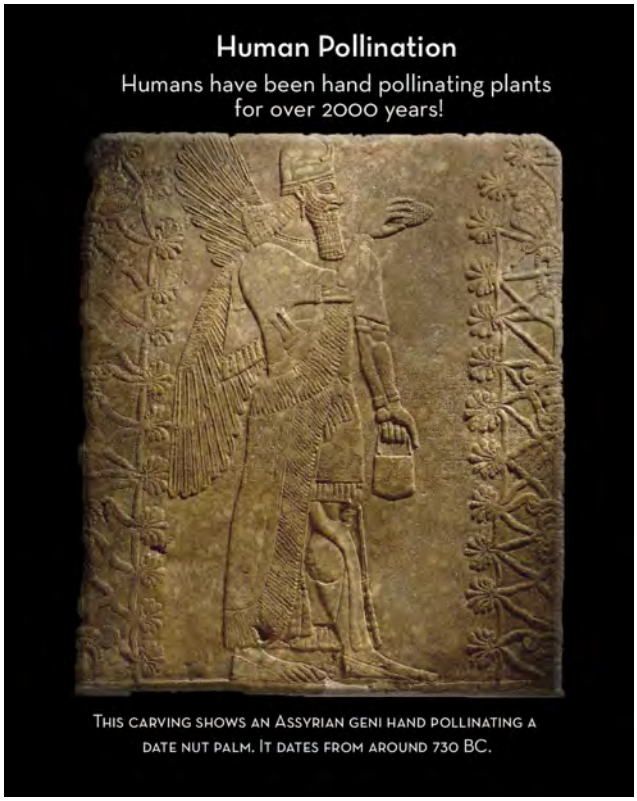
Five groupings of species topic areas, three highlighted species in layered graphic presentation per area(18 species total)

Corresponding wall graphics (overview, section headers)

Minimimum 300 running feet

Rental Fee: Call for Details

Availability: Summer 2027



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