

Journal Challenge

Prompt #4: Learning with Bees!



Goal(s): Use this guide to help you make observations about which bees are visiting your flowers or nesting in your pollinator hotel!

Theme(s): Be a citizen scientist and hone your observation skills

Duration: 25 minute outdoor exploration

Materials/Preparation: Use our [BeelD Pages](#) as your guide.



[Mason Bee Release OxCast Video](#)

Modification: Draw a flower and bee with their parts.

Activity: Pick a flowering plant to focus on and stand or sit an arm's length away from the plants so that you do not distract or deter the bees from doing their jobs. Keep voices off and focus your eyes on the chosen flower or plant. Observe your plants for two minutes. Use your [Bee ID pages](#) to try and identify the bee species that visited your section of plants based on flight pattern and characteristics. Also, to notice any other pollinators or other insects aside from bees that visited.

Different kinds of bees can be identified by their flight pattern and body size/shape.

Share your observations! Did you see a bee? What size or type of bee do they think it was? What was the bee doing? Did they see any other animals visiting the plant?

Inquiry Q's:

- 1. Which species of bee did you notice?
- 2. What type of flight pattern did that bee demonstrate?
- 3. Did you notice any other pollinators? What about other bugs or insects?
- 4. Did anyone notice bees transferring pollen from one flower to another?

Conclusion: Fun Fact: There are 4,000 bee species native to North America. Hole- nesting bees represent about 25% of the world's bee species, most native bees nest in the ground!

There are many types of bees in the PNW, in fact around 4,000 have been counted. Observing them is such an important skill! If you do more observations and record them in the right way, you could consider yourself a "citizen scientist". Citizen science uses the help of passionate people to gather data to better understand nature!

