

## **EDUCATOR NOTES:**

### [Getting the buzz on bees and other beneficial insects](#)

#### **Learning and Engagement Approach**

This activity is designed to engage young learners aged from 0 – 7 years.

This activity is intended to:

- facilitate an investigation
- increase awareness of insects in the garden and the beneficial roles they may play
- scaffold children to create wonderings about the animals they see.

#### **Safety Considerations**

- Check the weather before conducting any outdoors activity. If there is going to be extreme temperatures, storms or high wind, postpone the activity.
- Ensure that everyone is wearing closed shoes, hats, and sunscreen and has a water bottle handy.
- Keep any allergy plan information at hand and any associated allergy medication.
- As some invertebrates are venomous, model and explain how to handle them prior to children undertaking the activity.
- Do not use your hands to hold or move the animals, always use the paddle sticks and paint brushes to move them.

#### **Materials and References**

##### ***Animal information***

The Australian Museum has a free [Bugwise Invertebrate Guide](#) to help your children identify common spiders, insects and other invertebrates from illustrations.

Find out more about [Insect identification tips](#) from the Wild Pollinator Count.

Here is some further information about these common beneficial bugs

- [Bees](#) (native and European)
- [Ladybugs](#)
- [Hover Flies](#)
- [Mantids](#)

##### ***Resources for insect identification***

Museum Victoria has developed a free [National Field Guide app](#) for Android and Apple devices. There are eight apps available so choose one best suited to your location (NSW, ACT, VIC, SA, NT, QLD, WA & TAS).

Download the [Urban Wildlife app](#) for free to help you identify beneficial insects in your area.

[What are insects?](#) and [Bugwise fact sheets](#) from the Australian Museum.

[Explore bugs and insects](#) from Backyard Buddies.

## Site Suggestions

### **Likely insect locations**

The best places to look for animals such as bees, ladybugs and other beneficial insects is in a sunny spot, with lots of flowers.

## Educator Tips

### **Timing the investigation**

- It is best to conduct this activity between 10am and 2pm, when flowers are open and insects are visiting.
- If you live in temperate regions these activities are best conducted from September to April.

## Aligning this Activity

- [What's happening in the habitat?](#)

## Extension Activities

### **Extension 1**

Bees are most busy in spring; discuss why that might be so.

### **Extension 2**

Discuss actions that you could take to attract native bees and other beneficial insects to your school or backyard. Watch this Gardening Australia [clip](#) with native bee researcher Kit Prendergast.

## Community Engagement

Use [The National Landcare Directory](#) to find a community environmental 'care' group near you. Many Landcare groups have experience in understanding and caring for environments and biodiversity, we encourage you to connect with them.

Look to the [Junior Landcare Community Page](#) for organisations to contact to help support your investigations.

Use this [Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network map](#) to find a City Farm or Community Garden near you to get some ideas for your project.

## Curriculum and Framework Links

### **SCIENCE**

Foundation: [ACSSU002](#), [AC SIS011](#), [ACSSU004](#),

Year 1: [ACSSU211](#), [ACSSU017](#), [AC SIS025](#)

Year 2: [ACSSU030](#), [AC SIS042](#)

### **CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY**

[Sustainability](#)



**THE EARLY LEARNING YEARS FRAMEWORK**

[Outcome 2](#)

**MY TIME OUR PLACE: FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE**

[Outcome 2](#)