Pollinator Detective: Discover, Design, Share

Badge overview:

Students investigate pollinators in their school surroundings, identify what they need to survive, and design a small space or action to make the school more pollinator-friendly.

Badge goals:

By the end of this activity, students will:

- Recognise some common pollinators and their needs
- Observe and investigate their local environment
- Identify ways in which school grounds can support wildlife
- Use evidence and reasoning to develop a design
- Communicate an environmental idea to others

When & Where to use this badge:

Teacher Tip

This activity can link with:

- **Science** (pollination and biodiversity)
- **Environmental Studies** (habitats and conservation)
- **Art / Design** (planning and visual communication)
- **Languages** (presenting and persuasive communication)
- **Geography** (use of space and habitats)

Flexibility

Teachers can adapt the investigation and design task according to the space available at school. The proposed pollinator space does not need to be large; students can design a window box, planter, small garden area or other suitable intervention.

Steps to complete:

Step 1 – Discover (15–20 minutes)

Teacher Instructions

- Use **Nature Identification Sheet 2: Pollinators** to introduce students to some of the pollinators they may encounter around the school.
- Explain that different pollinators may visit different plants, and that the plants flowering in the school grounds change throughout the year.
- Ask students to look closely at flowers and plants around the school and think about which pollinators they might find.

Step 2 Investigate

Take students around the school grounds to look for pollinators and the plants they are visiting.

Students record:

- Pollinators observed, using **Nature Identification Sheet 2: Pollinators** to help identify them
- Flowers or plants they are visiting
- Where they were found
- Other features of the area, such as shade, shelter, water or bare ground

Students then consider:

What does our school provide for pollinators and what might be missing?

Step 3 Design

In groups, students design a small **pollinator-friendly space or improvement** for their school.

They should decide:

- Where should it be?
- What should be included?
- Why would these features help pollinators?
- How could the space be maintained?

Students create a simple sketch or plan and explain the reasoning behind their choices.

Step 4 Share

Students present their idea to the rest of the school.

They could:

- Present their design at assembly
- Create a display showing the proposed pollinator space
- Make a short video explaining their idea
- Write an article for the school newsletter
- Create a simple awareness campaign about pollinators

Where possible, students can put their idea into practice by creating or improving a small pollinator-friendly area.