

POLLINATOR PALACES

YOUR MISSION: Build simple spots for pollinators to rest and refuel

- 1.** Talk about pollinators and why it is hard for them to find places to live.
- 2.** Explain that you can help by making spots for pollinators to rest and refuel.
- 3.** Gather the materials you need to make a Butterfly Snack bar, a Ladybug Lair, and/or a Bumblebee Nest and follow the instructions on the next page.
- 4.** Observe your pollinator rest spots to see how they are used over the course of several days or weeks.



Rest spot	Suggested materials
Butterfly Snack Bar	Old or paper plate String and a rock Overripe bananas Brown sugar
Ladybug Lair	Water bottle Twigs Corrugated cardboard
Bumblebee Nest	Ceramic flower pot with hole in the bottom Wood shavings or hay Plate Rocks

BUTTERFLY SNACK BAR

MATERIALS

- Old or paper plate
- String or a rock
- Overripe banana
- Brown sugar
- Water
- Fruit or fresh flowers (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.** Prepare the butterfly treat.
- 2.** When your Butterfly Treat mixture has cooled, spoon some onto the plate.
- 3.** Add some cut fruit or fresh flowers to the plate. This will help attract butterflies (optional).
- 4.** Hang your plate or put a rock on it so it won't blow away outside in the garden or close to flowers.
- 5.** Wait for the butterflies to arrive!

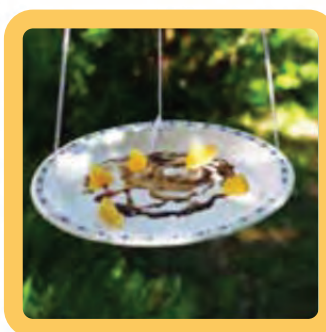
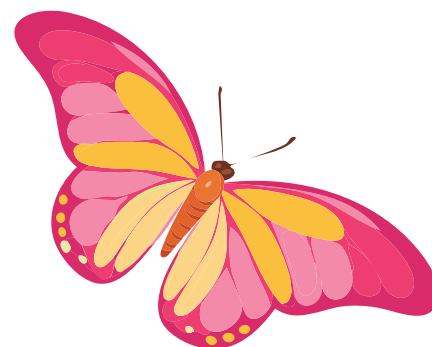
Butterfly Treat



Ingredients

- Overripe Banana*
- 1/2 Cup Dark Brown Sugar*
- 1 Cup Water*

Mash up the banana. Put it into a saucepan and add the rest of the ingredients. Bring the mixture to a gentle simmer, making sure to stir every couple of minutes. When the mixture becomes sticky, but still runny, remove it from the heat and let it cool.



Source: Great things to do Outside: 365 Awesome Outdoor Activities.
(2014) New York, NY: DK Publishing.

LADYBUG LAIR

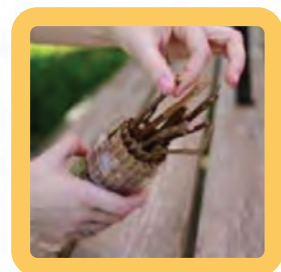
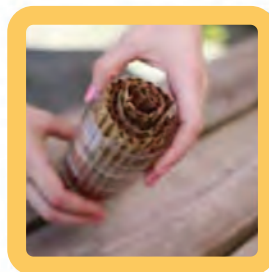
MATERIALS

- Clear plastic bottle
- Thin sticks that are longer than the bottle
- Scissors
- A large piece of corrugated cardboard



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.** Cut off the top of a cleaned clear plastic bottle so that it's a cylinder with one closed end.
- 2.** Cut the cardboard into a rectangle. It should be as long as the bottle and wide enough to wrap around the inside of the bottle a few times.
- 3.** Roll up the cardboard so it fits in the bottle. If you have a hard time bending it, try removing the layers of flat cardboard (so only the ridges remain).
- 4.** Put the roll into the bottle. It should expand a little, leaving a space in the middle. Place the sticks in the open space, making sure some of them stick out of the bottle so the lady bugs have a place to land.
- 5.** Put the bottle in a bush or other sheltered place. Angle the opening slightly downward so that rain doesn't get in. Make a sign that says "Ladybug Lair. Do not disturb" so that people don't think it's just litter.



Source: Great things to do Outside: 365 Awesome Outdoor Activities. (2014) New York, NY: DK Publishing.

BUMBLEBEE NEST

MATERIALS

- A ceramic flower pot with a hole in the bottom
- Hay or wood shavings
- A trowel or small shovel
- A cover to protect the pot from rain, like a piece of wood or a plate
- Rocks



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.** Pick a location for the nest in an undisturbed area so it won't be stepped on. Make sure it is near flowers or a water source, if possible.
- 2.** Dig a hole in the ground that's deep enough to fit the entire flower pot when it's upside-down.
- 3.** Sprinkle hay or wood shavings in the hole. This will help attract the queen bee.
- 4.** Put the upside-down flower pot in the hole, making sure that little to none of it is sticking out of the top.
- 5.** Protect it from the rain by putting rocks on the ground around the pot and placing the cover on top. You'll want to make sure you choose rocks that are tall enough so that there's space between the cover and the top of the pot for the queen to get in through the drainage hole.
- 6.** Once your Bumblebee Nest is in place, make sure you leave it alone. If bumblebees feel threatened, they could become aggressive.



Source: Great things to do Outside: 365 Awesome Outdoor Activities. (2014) New York, NY: DK Publishing.