



BRUCE MUSEUM

DIGITAL WEEKENDS: WILD BEES

BUSY BEES:

While we may still be experiencing spring showers, we are also seeing flowers begin to bloom. When you visit the flowers in your neighborhood, you may see bees or butterflies visiting, these are pollinators. Plants need pollinators in order to make seeds. Pollination is the transfer of pollen from one flower to another. This process fertilizes the plant and starts the seed making process.

There are a wide range of animal pollinators such as bees, bats, butterflies, and beetles. In this weekend's activity we will be looking specifically at wild bees! Wild bees are different from the honey bees you may be thinking of. The big difference is that some bees are domesticated while other bees are naturalized or native. Domesticated bees are bees that are bred and an example of this would be the honey bee. Naturalized bees are wild bees that have adapted to the environment around them like the orchid bee. While native wild bees are that have existed in their current environment, an example of this would be a carpenter bee. There are over 4,000 types of native wild bees to the United State and they come in a variety of colors and sizes. Wild bees are important because they help pollinate a variety of plants and flowers. Hopefully some of these unique bees will inspire you this weekend.



Small Carpenter Bee on Wild Rose
Paula Sharp

Vocabulary:

Pollinate: is the process of carrying pollen from one plant to another.

Pollinator: an insect or animal that pollinates flowers and plants.

Fertilize: is the process in making a plant productive.

Flower: a flower is the part of a plant that blossoms. Flowers produce seeds that can become new plants.

Blossom: the flower part of the plant.

Bees: an insect of a large family that includes wild bees.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

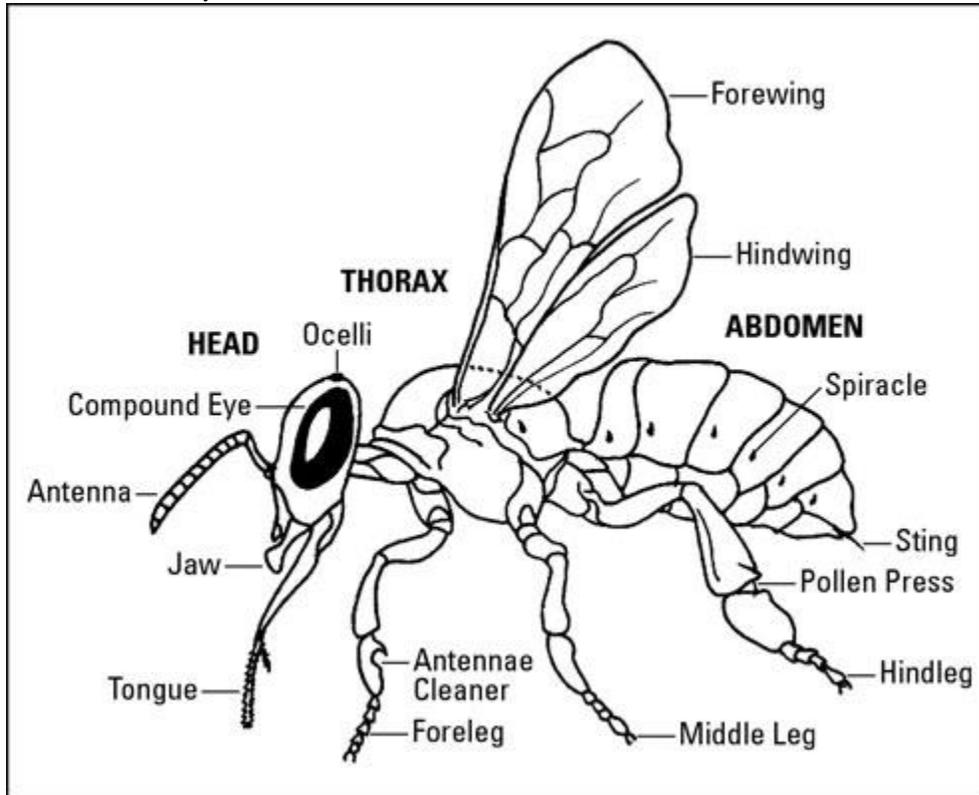
Visit this link for our past exhibition: [Wild Bees: Photographs by Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman](#)

[Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman's Website](#)



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Basic Bee Anatomy:



Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Water
- Brush
- Watercolor paint

DIRECTIONS:

Prep:

Ask an adult to help you find all the materials listed above. If you don't have an item listed, get creative and use something else from around your house. Some other items you can use might include colored pencil, crayons, or markers. Make sure to clear a space where you and your adult can do this activity.

STEP 1:



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Begin by looking at the photo above of the small carpenter bee. Have you seen this wild bee in your backyard or a local park? Think about the pollinators you have seen before and, if you can, go outside and try to find some. Once you have spent some time thinking about and looking at wild bees, get started!

STEP 2:

Watch teaching artist Grayson Kennedy as she creates her own bee; you can follow along! If you want to create a different type of wild bee, or pollinator, watch the video first and then get started.

STEP 3:

Start by drawing simple shapes for the head, thorax and abdomen.

STEP 4:

Draw basic lines for foreleg, middle leg, and hind leg.

STEP 5:

Connect the thorax to the abdomen.

STEP 6:

Add two ovals for an eye and the antenna.

STEP 7:

Start to draw out the legs. Follow along with teaching artist Grayson if you are doing the same wild bee. If you are creating your own wild bee, draw the legs how they look from your inspiration. Use hook shaped lines for the tarsal claws on the wild bee.

STEP 8:

Draw the forewing (the larger wing.)

STEP 9:

Beneath the forewing, draw the hindwing (the smaller wing.)

STEP 10:

Start to paint your bee, use a variety of colors. Add additional details to your bee, like leg hairs and wing veins.

STEP 11:

Once you are done with your bee add additional details, for example your bee could be sitting on a flower or there could be a blue sky in the background. When you're ready share your bee with your friends and family. You and your adult can also share your bee with our hashtag #BruceMuseum.

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