

## Bruce Museum Seaside Center Activity: Pollinator Puppets!

*A guided art exploration for use along the Long Island Sound*

*\*Note: This is part of a series of educational pamphlets and activities released as part of the Seaside Center's Digital 2020 Season. For access to all our content, please visit: <http://www.storage2.com/seaside-center>*

**Introduction:** Last week Brendan Murtha introduced us to the [wide world of pollinators](#). From moths to beetles to butterflies and back to bees, using the guide in last week's lesson you and your learner should be well on your way to becoming pollination experts. You also might be interested in getting to know a few pollinators a bit more closely, and the two craft projects in this activity will help you do just that.

**Materials needed:** popsicle sticks, tape, white cardstock paper, black and white paper (to make eyes if not using googly eyes), pipe cleaners in bee colors, scissors.

### **Craft 1: Flippy Flappy Butterfly**

On the right is a photo of a monarch butterfly taken in New York City's Central Park on August 14, 2020. Note that you can see the three parts of the monarch's body – the head, abdomen, and thorax.

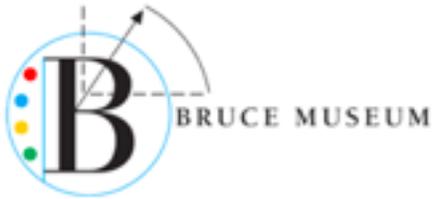
The butterfly's wings are open, and you can see the pattern on the fore and hind wings of the butterfly clearly. Look closely and you may notice that both sides are roughly symmetrical.

You and your learner can use this butterfly and its patterns for your Flippy Flappy Butterfly, or you can use your own photos or others that are available online. You can either trace the shape of an open winged butterfly onto a piece of cardstock, or you can print out a template from [this](#), or other free online sources.

Some questions to get you thinking about creating your own butterfly.

- What is the general shape of a butterfly wing?
- How would you describe the form of the butterfly's body?





- What colors do you see on the butterfly?
- Do both sides of the butterfly match? Are they symmetrical?
- What shapes and patterns do you see on the butterfly's wings?

To make your own butterfly:

- Trace or print out a template of the butterfly's shape (this should be at least as big as the palm of your hand, but can be bigger!)
  - You only have to trace half a butterfly, then fold the paper in half and cut along the half-butterfly shape. The folded paper will give you a doubled image.
  - Cut out the butterfly shape using scissors.
- Create a pattern on the butterfly's wings using markers, crayons or collaged paper.
  - Decide if you want to create a symmetrical or asymmetrical pattern.
- Make sure you illustrate the butterfly's body parts as well.
- Glue or tape your butterfly onto the top two inches of a popsicle stick, so that you can hold the bottom end without brushing your fingers on the paper butterfly.
  - Once the glue has dried, try flopping and flapping your butterfly's wings.
  - You may need to curl the wings downward gently to assist with the flapping.



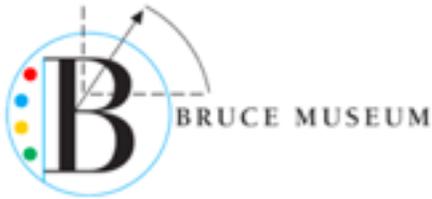
## Craft 2: Buzzy Fuzzy Bees

On the right are two images of bees (and a bonus wasp), taken in Central Park on August 14 2020. Note that the honey bee, in the picture on the left, has a very different color pattern than the bumble bee in the picture on the right.

Some questions to get you and your learner thinking before creating your own bee:

- Are bees all the same colors?





- Which colors do you associate with different types of bees?
- What patterns do you see on different types of bees?

Make your own bee:

- Start with three pipe cleaners. Choose the colors you want to use based on the bee you want to make.
  - A honey bee might be more brown and orange, while a bumble bee might be more black and yellow. If you make a sweat bee, the colors are even more diverse, from shiny greens to beautiful blues.
- Choose two of your pipe cleaners for your bee's body – wrap the pipe cleaners around the top half of the popsicle stick.
- Use the third pipe cleaner to create wings for your bee.
- Glue googly eyes onto the front, or use black and white paper to make eyes.
  - We didn't have googly eyes, so we used paper – but googly eyes can be super fun, too!



For each craft, if you want to take them to the next level, wrap a pipe cleaner around the base of the popsicle stick and take them outside for some high-flying, fuzzy buzzy fun.

These are our two flyers. Let's see how they do once we take them outside.





Here you can see our Flippy Flappy Butterfly meeting a Question Mark (yes, that is its name) butterfly on a Siberian elm leaf.



And here is our Fuzzy Buzzy Bee meeting a bumble bee on a bit of milkweed.

What kind of pals will your pollinators make?

