Match That Pollinator

Name:

When you open your fridge, do you prefer certain types of food? For example, would you rather eat an apple or an orange?! Just as you have favorite foods, pollinators have flowers that they prefer to feed from over others! There are many reasons why a flower may be liked or disliked by a pollinator. For example, the color, shape, size, or nutrition of a flower all matter to pollinators. Scientists research which flowers are favored by pollinators to support pollinator diversity. Below are a few types of pollinators and their notable preferences.



Bats have a long tongue that slightly curves. The tongue is also covered in tiny hairs to help drag up tasty nectar from large tubular shaped flowers. Bats are nocturnal and therefore tend to visit flowers that bloom at night.



Butterflies have a tongue called a proboscis. They will uncoil and extend into the flower. Butterflies like large, flat flowers that they can land on.



Hummingbirds have long, slender beaks used to probe deep into tubular-shaped flowers. Hummingbirds prefer bright colored flowers including shades of red and purple. Due to their large bodies, they need a lot of nectar and therefore visit large flowers.



Flies have small and straw-like shaped proboscis. Flies enjoy small clustered flowers. Flies prefer white and yellow flowers.









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Direction: Use a **ruler to measure** centimeters (CM) and inches (in) for the following flowers and pollinator's beaks and/or tongues. **Then draw a line** to match the pollinator with the best preferred flower option based on the pollinator's beak/tongue measurement









