

Bee Watering Holes

Description

Mid-summer droughts and city heat sink effects force bees to the far reaches of the city looking for watering holes. Sadly, many bees will only find water in buckets or in deep and dangerous places.

By building bee watering containers, we are creating habitats that mimic shallow streams and standing water. Bees will be able to perch on top of stones, leaves, stems, marbles, flowers and whatever materials we can uncover in the garden to safely sip water.

Key Learning Outcomes

- Understanding water cohesive and adhesive properties
- Studying and building habitats
- Bee identification
- Function and object design
- Coil pots, throwing wheels, glazing



Time Frame

1 - 3 periods

Materials

- Large shallow bowls or vessels
- Stones, leaves, marbles, flower petals, etc..
- Access to a kiln or ceramic room if making vessels

Related Workshops

- Biodiversity Insect Identification
- Bee Hotel; Building Habitat
- Pollination and Pollinators
- Outdoor Ceramics



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Bee Watering Hole

Introduction

- Bee Life Cycles
- What they do and their importance in the production of food
- Climate change and human intervention in landscapes
- Water Cohesive and Adhesive abilities and its effect on bees



Activity

- Students will unearth clay from the garden and study the sedimentary layers of the earth, as well as soak and siphon off the clay
- We will make pinch pots and wheel thrown or coiled vessels which will be fired and glazed. Students can also fire a batch of smaller round balls to be used as marbles.
- Outdoors, students will search for high trafficked bee areas away from major foot paths as locations to install bee watering containers.
- Using found materials throughout the garden, we will set up and water our bee safe watering holes.



Follow Up

- Do observational studies of what type of bees and insects visit the watering containers
- Students can visit the garden to add water and fresh flowers to bee watering holes



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