More Than Honey

A pollinator’s most important job is to move pollen. Pollen is a tiny, sticky grain. It can be found on the male part of a flower, the anther. The pollen must be moved to the female part of the flower, the stigma. A good “pollen mover”:

▪ Likes to travel! A pollinator needs to be on the go a LOT to move pollen around.
▪ Is hairy! The more hair, scales or feathers a pollinator has, the more pollen it can collect on its body to be moved around.
▪ Has a specialized mouth made for collecting nectar!

Bees are very hardworking pollinators. They do so much more than just provide us with honey. For example, they pollinate alfalfa. Cows eat alfalfa hay, so without bees, we wouldn’t have milk, cheese or hamburgers!

Solve the puzzle below to discover a few more of the foods we wouldn’t have without bees.

DIRECTIONS: The letters to fill in the blanks are directly below the column in which they belong but they are jumbled up. Place each letter into the column above it in the right order and you will find foods that bees provide us through pollination! The “food” words will read across from left to right.


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A BUTTERFLY!
Butterflies work hard at pollinating, which is good for us because pollination leads to seed and fruit production.

PROBOSCIS
(butterfly tongue). A butterfly’s tongue works like a curly straw. When the butterfly is using it to drink nectar, it is straight, and when it isn’t being used, it curls up.

WING
Butterflies rest with their wings held upright.

EYE
Butterflies have super color vision and can sense color wavelengths better than humans!

LEG
Butterflies taste with their feet!!!

We Need Pollinators

ACROSS
4. American ______________________ pollinate more than 90 commercial crops in the United States.
5. Three-fourths of the world’s food crops that YOU must have depend on animal pollinators to ______________________.
6. Insect ________________ plants are responsible for 99% of the vitamin C that comes from the foods you eat!
8. ______________________ pollinated by fruit bats and birds, is the #1 fresh fruit eaten in the U.S.

DOWN
1. Many ______________________ that we need come from pollinated plants.
2. In 2010 the U.S. exported 99,075 metric tons of pineapples, many of which were pollinated by ______________________.
3. Pollinators play an important role in ________________ ecosystems.
4. The yearly value of ______________________ bee pollination to the agricultural plants they pollinate in the U.S. is estimated at over 9,000,000,000 dollars.
7. Most plants depend upon pollinators to survive; we depend on plants for ______________________ to breathe.

The pollinator population in North America has been declining for several years. Here are a few ways you can do your part to make sure pollinators aren’t missing in your neighborhood.

• FEED THEM! Plant native flowers in your yard or in pots on your deck. Even a few pots can attract some pollinators to your neighborhood. For more information go to: www.pollinator.org.
• GIVE THEM A DRINK OF WATER. Keep clean water in a bird bath. You can also set out a dish of water with some small stones in it. The pollinators use the stones for a perch while they are drinking.
• PROVIDE THEM WITH A HOME! Make homes for birds, bats or bees. You can make them out of recycled containers and materials.
• BUY LOCAL! Support the farmers and beekeepers in your community by buying local honey and locally grown produce.
• DON’T “BUG” POLLINATORS. When you see pollinators like butterflies, beetles or birds, don’t touch or frighten them.
• CUT DOWN ON THE AMOUNT OF PESTICIDES AND OTHER POISON SPRAYS USED AROUND YOUR HOME AND IN YOUR YARD. Learn about natural remedies for unwanted pests.

Answer Key: More than Honey: peaches, almonds, apples, pumpkins, blueberries, strawberries, tomatoes, melons, coffee.

We Need Pollinators: Across:
4 honeybees, 5 reproduce, 6 pollinated, 8 bananas

Down:
1 medicines, 2 hummingbirds, 3 healthy, 4 honey, 7 air.

Puzzle Answer:

Across:
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