826 DIGITAL

Character-O-Matic: Pollinator Animal

Based on what you know about your pollinator animal, answer the questions below to create a new character.

What are your character's **desires**?

List 3-5 adjectives to **describe** your character.

What is your character **afraid** of?

What is your character's pretend **secret**?

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Mentor Text: Session 1

My name is Steve and I am a Honey Bee. Today I woke up and I smelled the most delicious flower from an avocado tree. The sky was blue. And the clouds were shaped like flowers, or maybe they were just on my mind, or my antenna! I flew 15 miles per hour, as fast as I could to the tree. And then I drank the nectar. I beat my wings 200 times per second to shake the flower. When I did this the pollen fell all over my fuzzy striped body. I could make honey with this later! I love honey! Now that I was full, I decided it was time to explore somewhere new to play basketball. I left the garden and I found a court where kids were playing. One boy shot a three-pointer, and I clung to the ball with my six legs…

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Dawn Bat



FUN FACTS

- They only eat nectar. They are nectarivorous.
- At night, they fly out in search of nectar from tasty fruit and flowers. Yum!
- Dawn bats live together in caves and the hollows of trees. Sometimes they live with 30-40 other bats and sometimes up to 50,000 other bats.
- Dawn bats are very social. In the morning, they like to hang out with other bats at home.
- Dawn bats are dark brown with a yellowish-brown belly.
- They have two big eyes, a long tongue, two big, somewhat pointy ears, a soft, furry body, and two big wings.
- Dawn bats pollinate the banana plant.

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Blue Bottle Fly

It pollinates the **Mango Tree.**



FUN FACTS

- They eat nectar. They are nectarivores.
- They are twice the size of a housefly. They are 3/8 to 9/16 inches long which is between almost half an inch to an inch in size.
- Their bodies are shiny and can be green and blue. They have a metallic blue belly, or abdomen.
- They have a furry orange neck and big reddish orange, composite eyes.
- They have been known to help in detective work.
- They have a very strong sense of smell.
- They have 4 tarsi (the spot where their leg bends) on each of their 6 legs.
- They have armor on their bodies to keep them safe.

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Desert Hummingbird

It pollinates the **Golden Ball Cactus.**



FUN FACTS

- The desert hummingbird is very small, only 3.5 inches
- They don't like it when it is too hot, so they will migrate and move to another place to avoid the heat
- That have A LOT of energy!
- So they need nectar and sugar to stay energized and warm their bodies when it is cold (They do not have big feathers to keep them warm!), and also to fly
- They love to go to the desert in February and March when the flowers are on the cacti
- They have a purple gorget, which is the name for the patch of feathers on their throat
- When they find an area they like to live in, they find only 3-4 places that they like to perch, usually on twigs in trees, where they can look at the flowers

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Spring Azure Butterfly

It pollinates the **Ponderosa Lemon.**



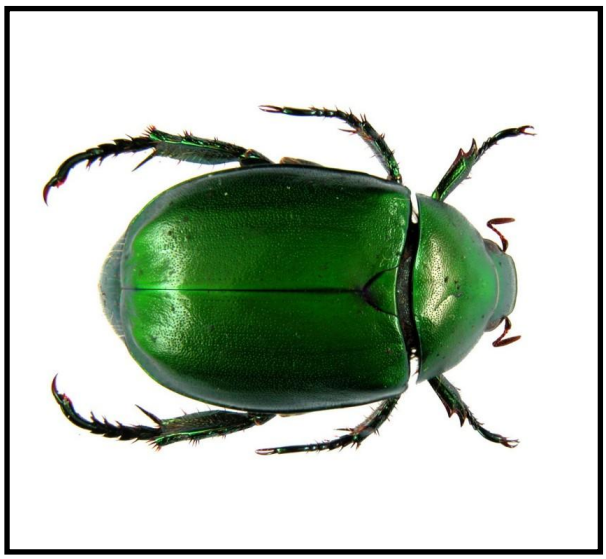
FUN FACTS

- They are one of the first butterflies to appear in the spring!
- The top of their wings are pale blue, and the bottoms of their wings are grey with black spots
- They are one of the fastest butterflies and can dart from one flower to another very quickly
- It drinks nectar by unrolling its long tongue!
- Butterfly wings are very thin, almost like paper!
- They love the white flowers, with a yellow center, and five petals, that grow on lemon trees

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Scarab Beetle

It pollinates the **Elephant Ear** plant.



FUN FACTS

- Many scarab beetles have bright, shiny, metallic colors. They can be black, brown, green, and other colors.
- Baby scarab beetles, the larvae, are shaped like a C
- Some types of scarab beetles have really strong hind (back) legs and are able to make big balls and roll the balls around
- Scarab beetles are insects and have six legs
- Elephant ear relationship
    - Some types of elephant ear plants completely depend on the scarab beetle for pollination
    - When the sun heats up the elephant ear plant, the plant smells irresistible to the scarab beetle. Hungry beetles!
    - Elephant ear plants create special flowers just for the beetles!
    - As the beetle walks around the plants, it touches the flower and picks up pollen!

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