

JULY 2025

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month



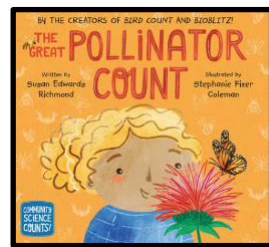
The Great Pollinator Count

By Susan Richmond

Mellie joins other Science Club members for the Great Pollinator Count and discovers the value of teamwork in community science.

Today Mellie and her friends are excited to participate in The Great Pollinator Count. Everyone is hoping that the school garden will attract even more pollinators than they counted last year. Mellie and her friend Sylvie invite Jason, a new kid in their class, to come along. When Jason surprises them by showing up for the count, they find out that he is not at all interested in counting icky bugs.

Mellie is unprepared when Ms. Bombus, their teacher, assigns her to be Jason's partner. Making the best of an awkward situation, Mellie tries to show Jason how to look for honeybees, butterflies, and other insect pollinators among the lantana and bee balm plants. He hangs back at first, still not convinced he wants to be that close to these buzzy insects, but it isn't long before he is looking for pollinators on his own.



Fun Facts:

- Georgia is home to over 500 species of native bees, including bumblebees, carpenter bees, and blueberry bees.
- The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail is Georgia's state butterfly.
- Farmers rely on honeybees, Georgia's state insect, to pollinate crops.
- Pollinators help produce about 1/3 of the food we eat, making them essential to agriculture.
- Georgia is home to more than 160 species of butterflies.
- Pollinators are responsible for about 75% of flowering plant reproduction.
- Pollinators in Georgia include bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, bats, flies, moths, ants, wasps, mosquitoes, and even some small mammals and reptiles, all of which help plants grow by transferring pollen as they search for nectar.

Videos:

- [AgVentures: Nixon's Fresh Honey in Peach County](#) | [See How GDOT is Helping with Pollinators in Dooly Co.](#)
- [How to Count Pollinators for the Pollinator Census](#)
- [How Do Pollinators Help Plants Grow? | SciShow Kids Compilation](#)
- [Flowers and Their Pollinators: A Perfect Match! - SciShow Kids](#)

Activities:

- [Get ready to participate in the Great Pollinator Census- August 22 and 23, 2025](#)
- [Make seed balls](#)
- [Coloring Pages: Bee | Pollinators](#)
- [Bookmarks: Bee | Pollinators](#)
- [No Bake Recipes](#)- select a no bake recipe that uses honey, fruit or vegetable that depends on pollinators.
- [Recipe: Red White and Blue Fluff Salad](#)- A festive 4th of July treat with a pollinator connection!
- [Plant a pollinator garden! Raised Bed Resource Guide](#). Include [native milkweed](#) and [flowering plants](#).
- [Lessons: Flower Power](#) | [Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation](#)
- [Beebuzz](#)- This is a game in which students take turns rolling a die and drawing parts of a bee.
- [Pollination Experiment Lab Report Packet](#)- This experiment uses Cheetos!
- [Pollinator Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Coffee Filter Craft: Make a Bee](#) | [Make a Butterfly](#)

Visit gfb.ag/aic for more activities