

Pollination: How Does My Garden Grow?

CREATORS

CHRISTOPHER CHENG

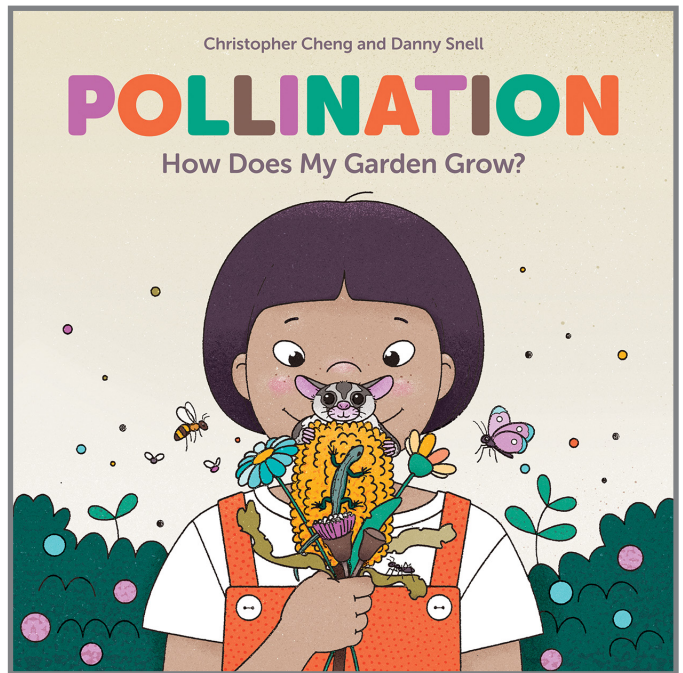
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DANNY SNELL

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

A child's day in the garden with their Gran and Pa leads to a wonderful exploration of pollination.

Join them in discovering how pollination happens in our gardens and backyards, and the importance it has for our environment. Meet the animals involved in pollination and the plants that depend on pollination to produce our fruit, vegetables and even our clothes!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher Cheng adores writing, especially picture books. He has been shortlisted for the CBCA and NSW Premier's Literary awards and won the Wilderness Society's Environment Award for Children's Literature. He is Co-Chair of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Advisory Council. See <https://www.chrischeng.com/>.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Danny Snell has been working as an illustrator for over 20 years. His picture books have won awards including the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, the Wilderness Society's Environment Award for Children's Literature and more.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Ask the class to draw their front, back or balcony garden. If they do not have a garden at home draw one they might have visited recently (eg. grandparents/friends/school garden/community park). Add as many features as possible including non-flowering plants, flowering plants, trees, lawn, play equipment, sheds or other items that are in their gardens. Did anyone include insects and other animals?
 - In small groups talk about what is the same or different about each of the gardens and tally results as a whole class in a simple table.
 - Brainstorm the living and non-living features of the gardens and highlight them on the table.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

SCIENCE

- From the story what do you think pollination is? Brainstorm and visually record the students' understanding.
- Draw or display a large bee on the board/screen. With the students' help label any body parts they are familiar with. Then as a whole class create a concept map around the bee with any important facts they already know.

- Draw and name two other animals from the story that can pollinate plants besides the bees? How were they able to spread the pollen?
- What attracts bees and other pollinators to a particular plant?
- Were there any plants in the story that could self-pollinate? How did it happen? Can you find some more from other sources?
- Visit your school garden or local park. Make a list of the different types of plants and animals (including insects) you observe. Create a collage of what you saw using recycled materials such as scraps of paper, fabric, leaf litter.
- Research the insects mentioned in the story: bee, ant, moth and butterfly. Find out their main characteristics, draw their life cycle and present your information along with a detailed labelled diagram of each one.
- Find out about Australian Pollinator Week at: <https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/>. It's celebrated each November. What activities could you and your class be involved in?

ENGLISH

- Use descriptive words to describe Gran and Pa's garden environment in the book. What types of plants (including flowers) and animals were part of the garden? Younger students may prefer to draw their interpretation of the garden.
- Pretend you are an adventurous bee. Write about your journey from leaving your hive in the morning to drink nectar and collect pollen before returning to your hive in the evening.
- Create your own interpretation of the story by making a garden diorama containing trees, vegetables, flowers, Gran, Pa and the child from the book. Don't forget to add some pollinators.
- Find out the meanings of the following words from the Glossary in the back of the book:
 - Blossom
 - Fertilisation
 - Fruit
 - Nectar
 - Nocturnal
 - Pesticide
 - Pollen
 - Pollinator
 - Seed
 - Self-pollinator.

SUSTAINABILITY

- If pollinators disappeared, what might happen?
- What can you find out about Australian native bees? What are the similarities and differences between Australian native bee species? Identify the species of native bees in your state or district. What differences are there between the introduced European honeybee and Australian native bees?
- With your class, find out about making a bee hotel to place in your school grounds. Visit the Eco Explorers website for some great ideas: <https://www.ecoexplorers.com.au/how-to-build-a-native-bee-hotel-with-kids/>.