Facts About Bats

- Do you like eating bananas and mangos? Bats help pollinate these fruits and more.
- In fact, it is believed that bats play a role in pollinating more than 500 different types of tropical plants.
- Because bats migrate and fly quite a distance before they drop seeds, they play an important role spreading plants and in helping diversify growth in areas.
- Bats tend to like flowers that do not give off strong scents or have bright colors.
- Bats have long tongues that help them reach nectar in flowers.

Facts About Ants

- Ants are pollinators too and they love nectar!
- Flowers that ants visit are low growing, usually have small inconspicuous flowers and have flowers that are close to the stem.
- Many tropical plants have nectar outside of their flowers to attract ants. These plants rely on defensive capabilities of the ants to protect them from other insects trying to get their nectar.
- Ants can lift 20 times their own body weight!
- It is believed that there are more than 35,000 ant species in the world!

Facts About Butterflies

- Butterflies have a weak sense of smell and taste with their feet!
- Butterflies have good vision and can see the color red (bees can't).
- Butterflies help pollinate many flowers, but are less efficient than bees because their long thin legs pick up less pollen.
- Butterflies are attracted to flowers that provide landing platforms and are brightly colored (red, yellow and orange).
- Butterflies probe for nectar with their long proboscis (the technical term for butterfly mouthparts).

Facts About Flies

- Flies have many beneficial functions such as decomposers, soil conditioners, water quality indicators and pollinators!
- Flies visit flowers to eat nectar and lay their eggs.
- Flies most often visit flowers that emit a strong or offensive odor.
- Do you love chocolate? Chocolate depends on tiny flies (called midges) to pollinate its small flowers along its trunk.

Facts About Wasps

- Wasps are pollinators! But, they are less efficient than bees because they are not generally covered with hairs that help carry pollen from flower to flower.
- Do you like fig newtons? Wasps are responsible for pollinating fig crops. Figs are unusual fruits, as the flowers are actually inside the immature fruit. Fig wasps are typically very small, about 0.06 inches in length. Without one another, neither the fig nor fig wasp can complete their life-cycle.
- Almost 100 species of orchids rely on wasps for pollination.

Facts About Beetles

- Beetles were some of the first insects to visit flowers!
- Beetles eat their way through petals and other floral parts, when they do this they get pollen on them which then aids in pollination of flowers.
- Beetles rely on their sense of smell for feeding and finding places to lay their eggs.
- Beetles like bowl-shaped flowers that have strong, sweet or fruity smells.
- Beetles are the largest order of insects with approximately 400,000 species, making up more than 30 percent of all animals!

Facts About Humans

- Plant breeders pollinate some crops by hand to control the crosses and select for plants that produce desired characteristics.
- Plant characteristics can include flower color, improved flavor, increased yield, or disease resistance to name a few.
- Hand pollination is usually an option only on a small scale.
- In Maoxian County in southwestern China apples are hand pollinated.

Facts About Bees

- Bees are the only insect that makes a food humans can eat, it's called honey!
- Bees wings beat 190 times a second.
- All worker bees are female.
- Pollen gets on bees' bodies and is carried from flower to flower.
- Bees have two stomachs, one for food and another for nectar only.
- Bees can communicate through chemicals called pheromones and by dancing!
- The waggle dance (a bee's dance) tells other members of the hive where food sources are. It can describe the distance and direction.

Facts About Moths

- Although not all moths are nocturnal, moths are one of the few nocturnal (night time) pollinators.
- They prefer flowers that are in clusters so they have good landing platforms, that are white or dull in color and have ample nectar such as morning glory and gardenias.
- Some moths (like the Hawkmoth) have proboscis (the technical term for tongue) longer than their entire body to help them reach the nectar!
- Different moths can range in size that is smaller than a pencil eraser to larger than a small bird.

Facts About Hummingbirds

- Hummingbirds are important pollinators that help feed on nectar from a variety of flowers using their tongues as a straw.
- Hummingbirds can lick 10-15 times per second!
- Hummingbirds heart beats 1,260 beats per minute and they flap their wings 20-80 times per second.
- Brightly colored flowers that are tubular and hold a lot of nectar are most attractive to hummingbirds.

Facts About Sunbirds

- There are 132 species of sunbirds and they belong to the family of spider hunters.
- Sunbirds can be found in Africa, Asia and Australia.
- Sunbirds have a thin, downward curved bill and a tubular tongue that is covered with bristles.
- Sunbirds' beaks and tongues help them pollinate tubular flowers that bees and butterflies can't reach.
- Sunbirds consume nectar mostly, but also will eat fruit and some insects and spiders.