



Pollinator Thaumatrope:

Few creatures are as important for our island ecosystems as pollinators. Butterflies, bees, and even some birds serve as pollinators, helping our plants complete their life cycles and provide us with our fruits and vegetables.

This project is a chance for you to illustrate your favorite Nantucket pollinator in its natural habitat. By using two paper plates, the pollinator is drawn on one and its preferred habitat on the other. Once assembled, the thaumatrope provides the illusion of your pollinator flying amongst your backyard garden.

Materials:

- Two paper plates
- Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Tape
- Bamboo skewer or stick

Instructions:

1. Cut out two paper plates so that you are left with two flat white disks.
2. Draw and color your pollinator on one side, and your pollinator garden on the other.
3. Tape your pollinator and habitat plates back to back, with bamboo skewer or stick taped in between. The finished thaumatrope should look like a big lollipop.
4. Use your thaumatrope!

What to look for:

As the summer progresses, keep an eye out in your own backyard for Nantucket's various pollinator species. There are dozens common to the northeastern United States that you may find visiting your

flowers. To encourage certain species, plant native flowers and shrubs. A common example, and the one we used for this craft is the monarch butterfly. They exclusively utilize milkweed for their larval stage before migrating all the way to central America! Milkweed grows naturally and is a wonderful addition to any backyard.

Thaumatrope materials:



Completed thaumatrope:

