

# AMAZING INSECTS AND ANIMALS

## How to make a 'beautiful' bee bath in seven easy steps

By Amelia Sesante  
MORADA MIDDLE SCHOOL

You may be wondering what are bee baths? Bee baths are not used for bees to bathe in; they are for drinking.

Bees are dying out at an alarming rate. According to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org), we are losing millions of bees to complicated causes, including viruses, cli-

mate change, decreasing crop diversity and habitat loss.

Bees dying out may seem inconsequential, but bees affect more than your garden being pollinated. Bees are an important part of our ecosystem; they pollinate about three-quarters of fruits, vegetables, and nuts in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That means that other animals, the

economy, and populations depend on bees.

To help out our little buddies, you can make a bee bath. Bee baths are easy to make with just objects around your house. They are a fun project that will keep you occupied during quarantine. Bee baths will make a wonderful addition to your backyard.

• Step 1: Find a place where

you want your bee bath to be.

• Step 2: Find a shallow, wide dish that you don't mind being outside.

• Step 3: Find rocks between the size of your palm to little pebbles. (You can also use colorful marbles to make your bee bath less bland.)

• Step 4: Rinse the rocks enough so that when water is placed it does not become murky

• Step 5: Place the rocks in the dish so that the bottom of the dish isn't showing

• Step 6: Place water in the dish so that the rocks are not submerged, and only a little bit of the top of the rocks are showing.

• Step 7: Change the bee bath water once a day and once every week give the bee bath a cleaning.



JOAQUIN FLORES/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Fun facts about otters

By Joaquin Flores & Jordan Mendoza  
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Did you know that there are 13 species of otters? Some types of otters are the Neotropical, the Spotted-Necked, and the Asian Small-Clawed. Otters eat about 20% to 30% of their body weight each day.

Another fact that you may or may not know is that most sea otters live on the coast of Alaska!

Next time you see an otter find out the type of species it is!

### River otters

By David Perez  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

1. River otters can hold their breath for up to 8 minutes while under water.

2. River otters spend two-thirds of the time on land.

3. River otters always wash themselves after every meal.

4. The river otter is the largest member of the weasel family.

5. River otters can dive to a depth of 60 feet.

6. Baby otters are called pups.

7. River otters are found in lakes, streams and rivers.

8. They eat fish, crustaceans, amphibians, snakes, water insects, snails, worms, small mammals, birds, eggs, frogs and turtles.

## The monarch butterfly

By Elias Yopez  
JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

• Monarch butterflies travel as much as 100 miles a day during their 3,000-mile migration south.

• Monarchs smell with their antennae.

• Nectar and water are tasted by the sensory hairs on their legs and feet.

• During its migration, each butterfly relies on the huge volume of food it ate when it was a caterpillar for fuel.

• Did you know that monarch butterflies will not be added to the federal endangered species list this year?



JESSICA GARCIA DOMINGUEZ/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## 10 facts about butterflies

By Mikayla Jacobe  
MORADA MIDDLE SCHOOL

I'm Mikayla Jacobe, and these are 10 facts about butterflies.

1. There is no butterfly poisonous enough to kill someone.

2. Butterflies belong to an insect group named Lepidoptera.

3. Butterflies take up to about 3 to 8 days to mate with another butterfly.

4. Butterfly eggs can take up to three days to hatch out into a caterpillar.

5. Butterflies cocoon

for 8 to 12 days.

6. When a butterfly lands on you, it is most likely attracted towards something salty, such as something like your sweat.

7. Butterflies can have a lifespan of one month.

8. No one really knows where the name butterfly originated.

9. There are about 20,000 species of butterflies in the world.

10. Butterflies drink nectar from flowers through their tongue, which works like a straw.



ELIAS YEPEZ/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL

## How much do you know about the humble honey bee?

By Kayaina Sath Lek  
MORADA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hi. My name is Kayaina Sath Lek, and here are some interesting facts about bees:

• A queen bee can lay over 2,000 eggs per day in the hive.

• In that case if a queen bee is lazy and doesn't want to do anything, then the other bees will have a time to kill her.

• Once the queen has died, one of her daughters will be the next queen.

• Bees have inspired scientific and engineering projects such as the use of hexagons in engineering.

• Bees die at 41 degrees.

• They pollinate food crops.

• Honeybees always travel incredible distances to look for pollen.

• Male bees in the hive are called drones and they do not have a stinger.

• All bees that are working are females.

• Bees can collect flower pollens and make honey. They make really sweet honey.

• If rain, wind and cold air is hitting the

bees while flying, it will decrease the speed of them and make them pretty weak.

• Bees follow humans around because they are attracted to humans' sweat.

• Bees have five eyes. They use them to detect light, they also can sense if they are being approached by a predator.

• They have 6 legs.

• They are very intelligent even though they have small brains.

• They take it as a threat if they see dark colors.

• Honey bees are capable of stinging you.

Queen bees are capable of using their stingers, but they don't usually harm.

• Wasps are different from bees because they can sting more than once and not die.

• Bees can only sting once and then they die afterwards.

• Bees developed about 130 million years ago.

• Western honey bees have about 14 to 28 days of lifespan.

• If a bee sees that you have killed one of the bees, the other bee will attack you and try to sting you.

## From habitat to diet: Facts about gray foxes

By Sebastian Sandoval & Jorge Mendoza-Rogel  
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Did you know that gray foxes are the only dog family that can climb trees to look for their prey?

The scientific name for gray foxes is *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* and they live up to 10 years.

Gray foxes weigh

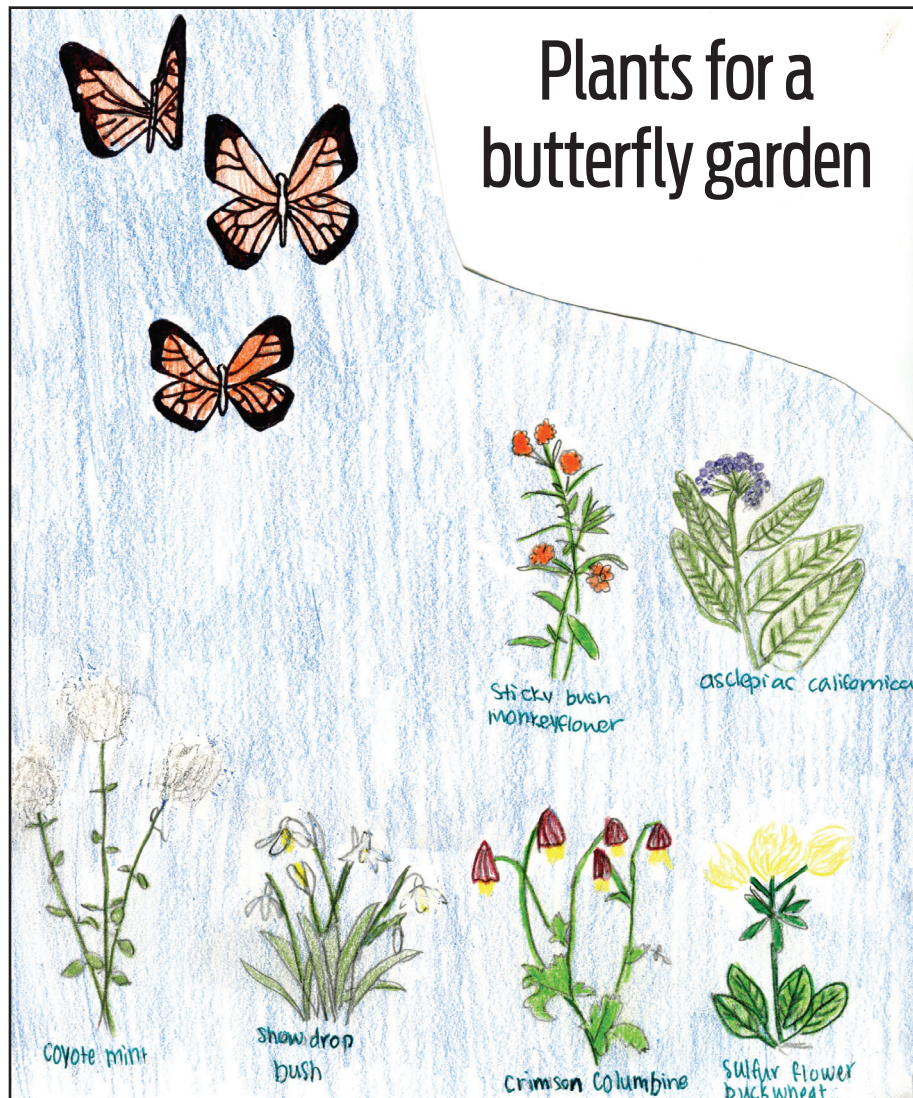
about 5 pounds and stand 12 to 15 inches tall.

Another interesting fact about gray foxes is that they live in watersheds. They are omnivores so they eat a variety of foods.

Their predators include cougars, eagles, owls, bobcats, hawks, coyotes, and humans!

They usually escape to the rocky mountains but can be found in desert grasslands or open wood areas.

## Plants for a butterfly garden



ANGELES JIMINEZ/JOE SERNA JR. CHARTER SCHOOL