



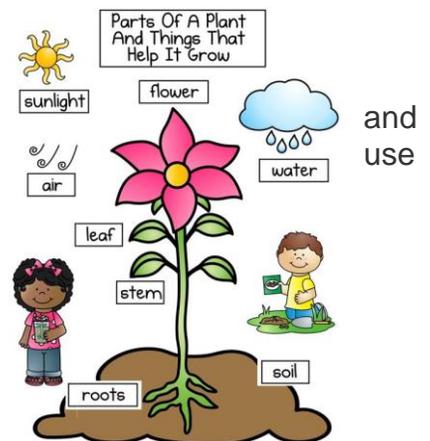
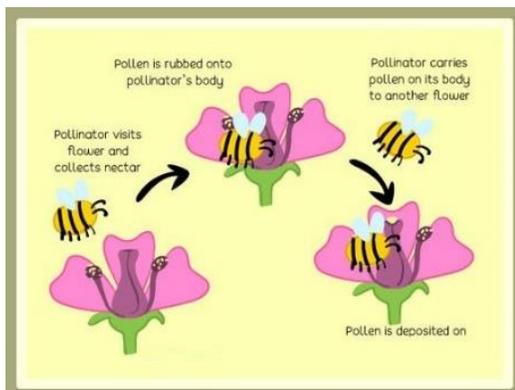
by Cindy Steele

## Mother's Day Nature Craft

Welcome back to Puddles' Craft Corner. It's May and it's time to think about flowers, nature, and honoring special ladies in kids' lives. Mother's Day is just around the corner and, if the kids are looking for a pretty gift for mom, grandma, or a special lady, this flowerpot painting craft is the perfect way to teach the kids a little bit about plants and pollination while making a beautiful gift. With just a little help, they'll have a gift for someone to treasure forever. Moms love handmade gifts on Mother's Day, and this fingerprint flowerpot truly is handmade or at least "finger made"! Kids will have a blast making cute fingerprint critters and mom will enjoy this lasting reminder of her little one's darling little hands forever.

Puddles, the mascot of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is here to help us to learn a little bit about plants and pollination while creating a fun gift. Let's take a look INSIDE nature at the parts of a flower and the role insects play in the pollination of flowers. Kids love to pick flowers, smell their scents, and then give the bouquet to someone special. To receive a handful of wilted but picked-out-of-love blooms is about as special as it gets!

This is a great activity to also sprinkle in a bit of information about plants and flowers. Use this poster to learn about the parts of a plant and what the plant needs to help it grow healthy and strong. Next, use the pollination poster to discuss a bit about how insects are so important to the production of new flower plants.



Now, it's time to gather a few materials to make a beautiful gift for Mother's Day.

## Mother's Day Flowerpot



## Materials

1. Small to medium size clay pot
2. Sponge paintbrush
3. A couple of regular paintbrushes
4. Sharpie marker or other permanent marker
5. A piece of newspaper
6. Paper plate or paint holder
7. Flower seeds or flower plant
8. Acrylic paints (I used black, white, green, light blue, yellow, orange, pink, and red.)

## Instructions

1. Gather all of your supplies.



2. Paint the whole pot light blue with the sponge paintbrush. Let the blue paint dry.



3. Paint on the grass using a smaller paintbrush. Let the green paint dry.



4. Let the child use his/her fingers to make dots on the pot in different colors. (Examples: a yellow dot for a bee in the sky, a red dot in the grass for a ladybug, five or six green dots in a row for a caterpillar, four dots for a butterfly, three black dots for an ant, etc.) Let the dots dry. Here are some examples of fingerprint insects.





5. Dot larger white dots for the eyes on the ant, bee, caterpillar, and ladybug. Use the back end of the larger paintbrush to dot the white part of the eyes. You can also use white to add mouths or draw them on using the permanent marker. The back of the larger paintbrush can be used to add dots and decorations to the butterfly wings, too. Be sure to make the butterfly dots symmetrical as butterfly wings are symmetrically mirror-imaged!



6. Dot smaller black dots for the pupils of the eyes using the back end of the smaller paintbrush.



7. Use a sharpie or other permanent marker to add details to the insects. (Examples: Add a stinger, wings, stripes, mouth, and flying dots on the bee. Add antennae and feet to the caterpillar. Add the body and antennae to the butterfly. Add antennae, middle line, and dots to the ladybug. Hint...their dots are also symmetrical! Add antennae and feet to the ant.)



8. Your fantastic fingerprint flowerpot is finished! If you like, you can spray the exterior of the pot with a clear sealer or paint it with modge podge for protection and waterproofing. Add some flower seeds or plant a Mother's Day flower in the pot. Any child's special lady will treasure this "finger-made" gift!



Join Puddles in June for a sensational summer craft!