

**You will need:**

- 2 shallow dishes (clear plastic take out container covers work well or thrift stores have many choices of glass and plastic)
- Some rocks, pebbles, marbles and/or decorator gems
- Salt (just a pinch of table salt)
- Water (straight from the hose works fine)
- Overripe banana (has dark spots, getting mushy)
- Butter knife

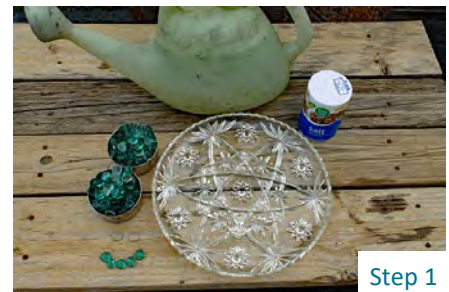
**Optional:**

- Slice of watermelon in place of banana



**Directions:**

1. Place your clear, shallow dish in a sunny spot outside. Many pollinators like bees and butterflies are more active on sunny days.



Step 1

2. Add a pinch of table salt (you can do this every month or so). Pollinators need minerals like salt. You may have noticed a group of them at dirty puddles. They are collecting salt and other minerals from the dirt in the water. This is called “puddling.” They even like to land on sidewalks where children play—they like our salty sweat!



Step 2

3. Place enough pebbles, marbles, rocks, etc. in your shallow dish so that your bee and butterfly friends can have a spot to rest while they drink.



Step 3

4. Now you can add enough water to fill your shallow dish. We use a shallow dish with pebbles so the pollinators don’t drown and so it is not deep enough for mosquitoes to lay eggs in. But this means you will need to refill your dish often when there are days without rain.



Step 4

5. Now for the rest of the picnic! Remember your overripe banana? Peel it and take your butter knife to slice it up. Why are we using overripe fruit? Bees and butterflies have to drink their food! So they need mushy fruit from which they can drink the juice. They don't have teeth but they do have a cool tongue that is like a long, thin straw. They curl it up when they fly. It's called a **proboscis**.



6. Place your slices on the second shallow dish.

7. Put your fruit dish near your water dish in a sunny spot.



8. Now move back a bit and watch out for visitors! Show us your pollinator picnic our Facebook page "Adventures in EdZooCation" or tag the North Carolina Zoo at #NCZOO or #NCZOOED.