



How to Make a Flip Book to Tell a Pollinator Story

Making a flip book is a fun activity to tell a short pollinator story! It is also a great introduction to animation.

Start by learning about pollinators and then think of a simple pollinator story that you would like to animate. Your story should have your pollinator moving in some way. Here are some suggestions if you are having a hard time coming up with an idea: a butterfly coming out of its chrysalis and flying away, a butterfly going from flower to flower, a bee that flies back and forth and up and down with pollen on its legs or a hummingbird landing on a trumpet-shaped flower and sticking its beak in the flower to draw nectar before flying away. Write down your idea, and be sure your story has a beginning, a middle and an end.

Supplies:

- Index cards – 3” x 5” cards that need to be blank on one side - It takes at least 50 index cards to be able to flip the stack so that you can see movement. Expect to make between 50-100 cards.
- Pencil and eraser
- Rubber band or large clips to hold book together
- Markers, crayons or colored pencils (optional)

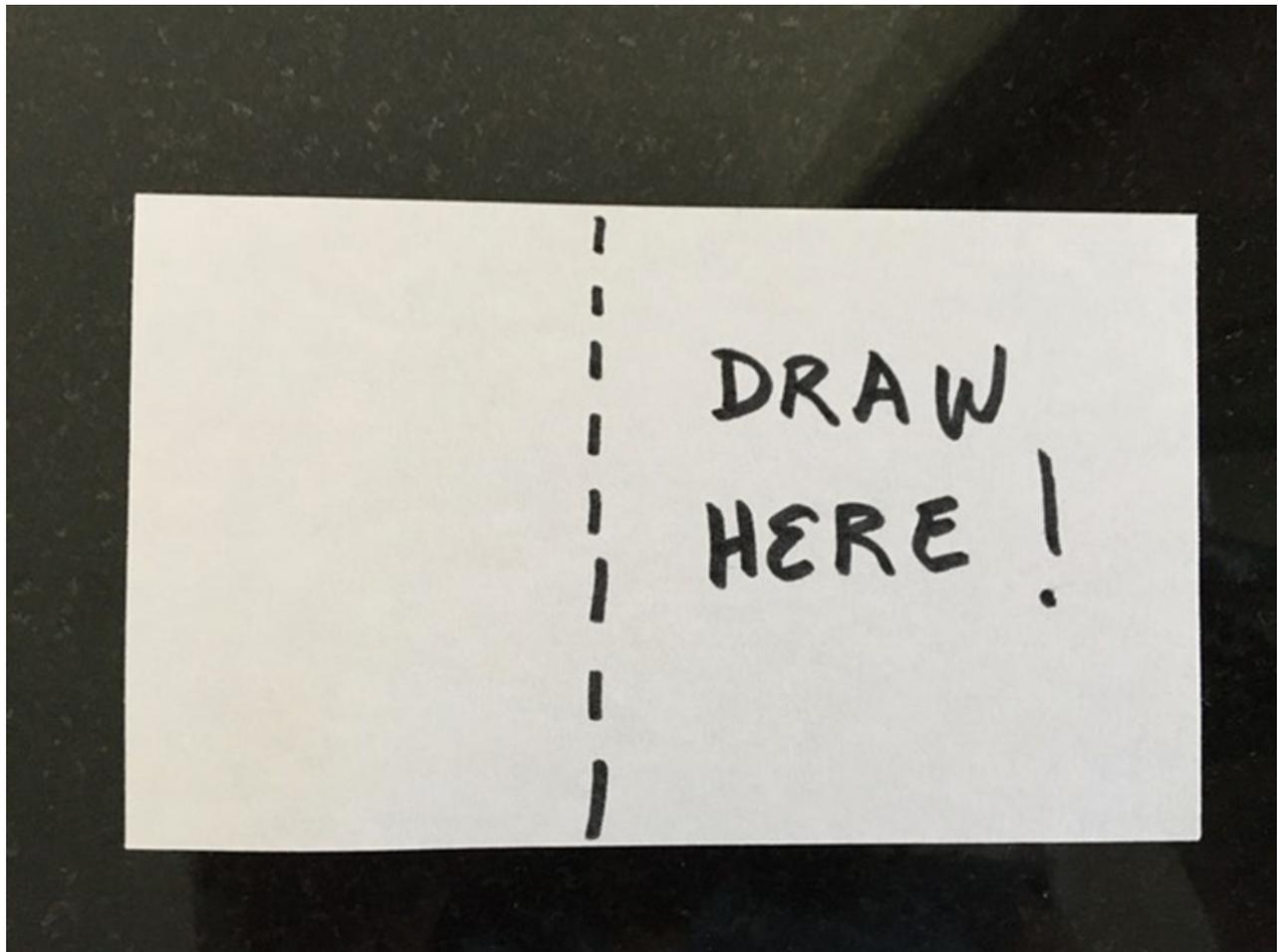




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Instructions:

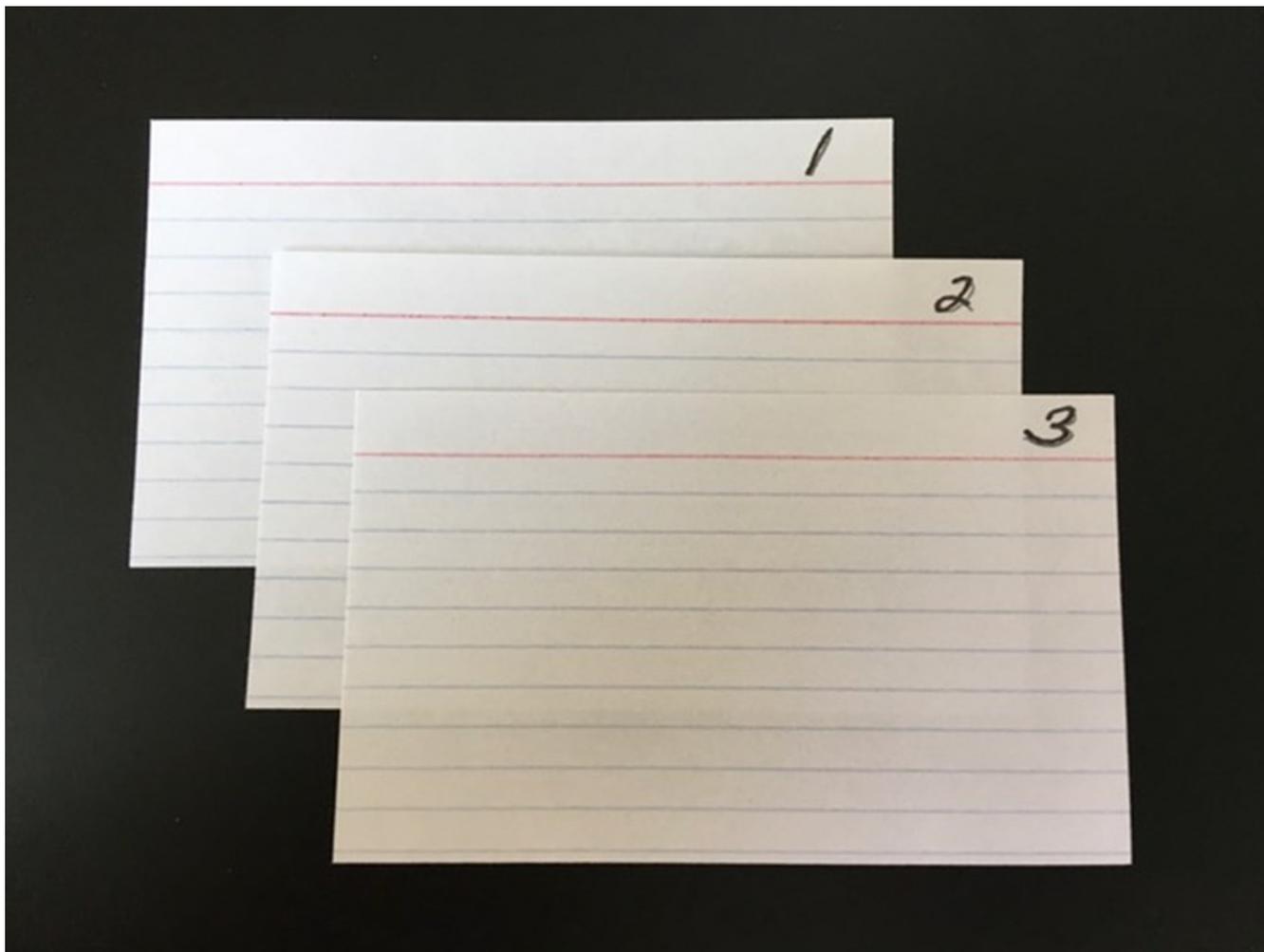
1. Keep your drawings very, very simple. You will have to draw it again and again on each card, so you'll want it to be quick and easy without too many things on each card. Before using any index cards, practice drawing your pollinator character on a piece of paper with a pencil. You may need to erase or start over several times until you are happy with how it looks and to make sure that it is simple enough to draw or trace many times.
2. When you are ready to get started, draw your pictures only on the right half of the index card. If you draw on the left side, you won't see your drawings because that is where the cards are held together.





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3. As you finish your artwork on each card, number the card on the back. It's very easy to drop or mix your cards up so that they are out of order. If they are numbered it's easy to put them back in order.





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Once you know what your pollinator story is, it's time to get started! Here is an example of a bee flying across the page. Draw your bee on the first card, then move the bee a little bit on the next card, then a little more on the next card and so on. Tracing your bee from card to card makes the drawing go much faster. (The photo below is showing the bee moving a little bit on each card.)





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5. When you are finished, stack up your cards and wrap a rubber band around the left side or use a very large paper clamp.
6. Try your flip book, and have fun learning more about pollinators!

TIPS:

- An easy way to trace your drawing and move it a little each time would be to hold the finished drawing against a window, then place the next blank index card on top of it and move the blank card a little before tracing.
- Don't color your drawings until you are finished with your flipbook. You may decide that you like it just as it is!
- If you do decide to color it, markers are the quickest way, but colored pencils would also work. Coloring the whole card would take a long time, so picking just one or two items to color is easiest since there are a lot of cards to color!
- It takes at least 50 index cards to be able to flip the stack so that you can see movement. Expect to make between 50-100 cards. Once you have many cards drawn, you can try out what you've done so far. Take your finished drawings and place them on top of blank cards (so that you have enough cards to flip) and use a rubber band or clip to hold them together. Flip through...do you see the movement you expected?