

Supplemental Texts

Unit 4: *The Power of Pollinators*

The following is a list of additional texts that could deepen learning within this unit. Consider adding a few of these texts to the class library and/or offering some of these titles to feed particular interests during Studios work and throughout the day. The list includes fiction texts, non-fiction texts, texts by Maine authors/illustrators, and Wabanaki texts.

Fictional Text Ideas

<i>Title</i>	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Achoo! Why Pollen Counts</i>	Shennen Bersani	2015	Spring has arrived and pollen is in the air. Baby Bear does not like the pollen—it sticks to his fur and makes him itchy and sneezy. He’s allergic! Achoo! He just wishes the pollen were gone. When his friends gather to tell him why they need pollen, Baby Bear learns that pollen is good for the forest and provides food for many animals, including him! Pollen might be something we all love to hate, but can we really live without it? This story explains why we need it.
<i>Curious George: A home for Honeybees</i>	Julie Tibbott	2014	Based on the Emmy Award–winning PBS TV show, Curious George and his friend Steve find themselves in a sticky situation when they accidentally eat all of Betsy’s delicious honeycomb for her Earth Day presentation about bees. How will they get more before Betsy finds out? This read includes tons of information about bees and two activities that reinforce the concepts in the story.
<i>Kaia and the Bees</i>	Maribeth Boelts	2020	Kaia is the brave type. Like hottest-hot-pepper brave. But there is one thing that scares her: BEES! And right now, thousands of bees live on her roof because Kaia’s dad is a beekeeper. Her dad says that the world needs bees and that’s why they are beekeepers. But only he goes on the roof, not Kaia — unless she can find a way to be the brave girl she always says she is. Against a sunny city setting, author Maribeth Boelts and illustrator Angela Dominguez depict Kaia’s small courageous steps — and her tiny insect neighbors — with great empathy and charm. Buzzing with storytime potential, <i>Kaia and the Bees</i> is an honest

			and relatable tale about bravery and compassion, as well as the importance of bees to our world. Note: Family structure may be sensitive for some students.
<i>Prunella</i>	Beth Ferry	2024	When Prunella is born with a purple thumb instead of a green one like her parents, everyone's stumped. What could it mean? Before long, they find out. Prunella prefers corpse flowers to carnations, fungi to ferns, and poison ivy to petunias. The stickier and scarier the plant, the more Prunella loves it. And if her poisonous and noxious garden keeps the other neighborhood kids away, it's probably for the best. But then one day, a curious weed of a different sort pops up... Should prickly Prunella uproot this tentative new friendship or allow it to flower?
<i>Sadiq and the Green Thumbs</i>	Siman Nurali	2019	When Sadiq's Dugsi teacher can't take care of his yard because of an injury, Sadiq reluctantly agrees to help out. To make it more fun, Sadiq gathers together some friends to help. Can they care for their teacher's garden and have fun at the same time? Note: This is part of a series.
<i>The Big Idea Gang: BEE the Change</i>	James Preller	2019	The Big Idea Gang is buzzing with excitement! They're going to show Clay Elementary just how important bees can be in this chapter book series about making a case—and making a difference. After Kym and Lizzie get the awesome opportunity to visit a bee colony, they realize all the wonderful things bees do! But how can it be that these amazing insects are disappearing? And what will happen to our food chain without the great pollinators buzzing about? If only everyone else at Clay Elementary could understand how important the bees are for the environment! Now that's a big idea that needs to be shared! With the help of Connor and Deon, Kym and Lizzie set out to show their school the beauty of bees, and use their powers of persuasion to make a difference in the world.
<i>The Puddle Garden</i>	Jared Rosenbaum	2015	In this children's story full of native plants and wildlife, learn how lonely Bear Cub invited friends to his new home— by creating a Puddle Garden. Bear Cub plants cardinal flower, swamp

			milkweed, blue flag iris, elderberry, and more. His garden quickly fills with grateful wildlife. His home landscape is no longer lonely! Children and parents alike will be inspired by this story to create homes for butterflies, hummingbirds, turtles, frogs and other wildlife, using native wildflowers and shrubs that provide shelter and sustenance. Written by botanist Jared Rosenbaum, and illustrated by artist Laura Rosenbaum, this book is both a charming story and a template for restoring our home landscapes to natural beauty and abundance. Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of <i>Bringing Nature Home</i>, says of <i>The Puddle</i> "Read the Puddle Garden to your kids, but while you are reading, please hear its vital message yourself!"
<i>Yasmin the Gardener</i>	Saadia Faruqi	2020	It's spring! Yasmin and her baba are excited to plant their garden, and Yasmin chooses a flower seedling. She gives it plenty of sun, water, and good soil . . . so why is it wilting? Watching Nani sit in the sun gives Yasmin a bright idea and she knows just what her little plant needs. Note: This is part of a series.

Nonfiction Text Ideas

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Summary</i>
<i>A Butterfly is Patient</i>	Dianna Hutts Aston	2019	<i>A Butterfly Is Patient</i> celebrates a dazzling variety of butterflies in all their beauty and wonder. Turn each page to explore the amazing world of these beautiful winged insects through watercolor illustrations that bring to life garden landscapes filled with flowers, vines, leaves, and sunshine.
<i>A Seed Grows</i>	Antoinette Portis	2022	To understand how a seed becomes a sunflower, you have to peek beneath the soil and wait patiently as winding roots grow, a stalk inches out of the earth, and new seeds emerge among blooming petals. Leading up to a striking fold-out spread of a full-grown sunflower, the lively, bold illustrations in <i>A Seed Grows</i> offer a close-up view of each step of the growth cycle. Additional material in the back of the book explains the science of plant life cycles, and goes into more detail on the ways in which flowers and seeds depend on other creatures.

<i>Akeem Keeps Bees</i>	Kamal Bell	2022	The book follows a young boy named Akeem who learns how bees work together and why they are vital to food and farming. Through simple narrative and colorful illustrations, it celebrates curiosity, responsibility, and the connection between humans and nature. The story aims to spark children's interest in science and agriculture.
<i>Animals: Here We Grow</i>	Shelley Rotner	2022	Readers follow along as a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, a tadpole into a frog, and egg into a chicken. This engaging and accessible look at natural science introduces young children to the stages of growth for a diverse variety of animals. The bright, clean layout makes it easy for kids to follow along, while the paneled photographs allow readers an up-close look at each stage of development. Perfect for children curious about the world around them. Shelley Rotner, a <i>National Geographic</i> photographer and prolific children's author, applies her trained eye for crisp colors and details in this latest book for young readers.
<i>Before the Seed: How Pollen Moves</i>	Susannah Buhrman-Deever	2024	We live in a world of green that grows from seeds, but what happens before there are seeds? In a graceful text grounded by riveting science, biologist Susannah Buhrman-Deever explains how whirling winds, buzzy bees, and bustling birds move pollen from flower to flower, answering each plant's special invitation. Lush botanical illustrations by artist duo Gina Triplett and Matt Curtius bring each tiny detail of the process to life, and the final pages remind us why it's important to take action to protect our pollinators. From bees and bats to beetles and hummingbirds, the text covers creatures from all over the world that aid in flower pollination, as well as the sophisticated mechanisms flowering plants have developed in order to reproduce. Back matter includes more information on flower anatomy, how to support local pollinators in your own backyard, and the dangers that global warming poses to pollinator species.

<i>Begin with a Bee</i>	Liza Kethum, Jacqueline Briggs Martin, Phyllis Root	2021	By looking closely at the life cycle of one bee, <i>Begin with a Bee</i> helps readers of all ages understand and appreciate the contributions and significance of all bees. The life cycle of the rusty-patched bumblebee is a tale of wonder, the adventure of one queen bee who carries an entire colony of bees inside her tiny body. Her story begins in the spring when she emerges from a hole in the ground to search for pollen. She finds a nest, “underground best,” lays a few eggs, and seals them in pollen. All summer this single queen lays more eggs, and more worker bees hatch. They gather pollen and maintain the colony until next year’s queen hatches in the fall.
<i>Birds and Their Feathers</i>	Britta Teckentrup	2018	Teckentrup explores feathers as both functional and symbolic elements of bird life. The book describes how feathers enable flight, provide insulation, and serve in communication or camouflage. Each spread pairs lyrical text with artful imagery, inviting reflection on the connection between birds and their environments.
<i>Bloom Bloom</i>	April Pulley Sayre	2019	When spring arrives, flowers of all kinds sprout and grow buds and bloom. Sometimes, they bloom a few at a time. But other times, many will bloom at once in a colorful flower boom! This photographic exploration of flowers goes from the desert to the woodlands and beyond, celebrating their beautiful variety and the science behind these colorful displays.
<i>Butterflies Are Pretty...Gross!</i>	Rosemary Mosco	2021	Butterflies are beautiful and quiet and gentle and sparkly . . . but that's not the whole truth. Butterflies can be GROSS. And one butterfly in particular is here to let everyone know! Talking directly to the reader, a monarch butterfly reveals how its kind is so much more than what we think. Did you know some butterflies enjoy feasting on dead animals, rotten fruit, tears and even poop? Some butterflies are loud, like the Cracker butterfly. Some are stinky -- the smell scares predators away. Butterflies can be sneaky, like the ones who pretend to be ants to get free babysitting.
<i>Feathers Not Just for Flying</i>	Melissa Stewart	2014	A children's nonfiction book that explores the many uses of feathers beyond flight, such as for warmth, camouflage, building, and even sound production, using watercolor illustrations by Sarah S. Brannen to showcase different bird species and their unique adaptations. The book highlights how feathers provide insulation, protection, and help with activities like diving, digging,

			and attracting mates, making it an engaging introduction to avian biology for young readers.
<i>Flowers Are Calling</i>	Rita Gray	2015	Flowers are calling to all the animals of the forest, "Drink me!" — but it's the pollinators who feast on their nectar. In rhyming poetic form and with luminous artwork, this book shows us the marvel of natural cooperation between plants, animals, and insects as they each play their part in the forest's cycle of life.
<i>Flowers Are Pretty...Weird!</i>	Rosemary Mosco	2022	Flowers are beautiful. They have bright colors, soft petals and sweet nectar. Yum! But that's not the whole truth. Flowers can be WEIRD . . . and one bee is here to let everyone know! Talking directly to the reader, a bee reveals how flowers are so much stranger than what we think. Did you know that there are some flowers that only bloom in the nighttime? Some flowers are spooky, and look like ghosts, or bats, or a monster's mouth. And while most flowers smell good, there are some that smell like dead meat, or even horse poop!
<i>Fly Guy Presents: Insects</i>	Tedd Arnold	2015	Fly Guy and Buzz are ready for their next field trip! And in FLY GUY PRESENTS: INSECTS they go outside to learn all about other insects like Fly Guy! With straightforward text, humorous asides, and kid-friendly full-bleed photographs throughout, young readers will learn lots of fun facts about all sorts of bugs. Award-winning author/illustrator Tedd Arnold really brings nonfiction to life!
<i>Friends in Nature: Discover Earth's Amazing Ecosystems</i>	Marina Ruiz	2025	Discover the incredible ways in which animals and plants help each other, the planet, and YOU to thrive with this illustrated tale of symbiosis and ecology for children aged 5-7. Can you imagine a world where you had to do everything by yourself? It's pretty impossible. The truth is, everyone needs a little help from someone, or something. Can you imagine a world where you had to do everything by yourself? It's pretty impossible. The truth is, everyone needs a little help from someone, or something. All living things in the natural world, from the trees and the bees to the dogs and the frogs, depend on one another. There wouldn't be a coral reef without the help of all the fish that have made it their home. Rain forests are only filled with lush and colorful plants because of the birds and mammals who eat and

			scatter their seeds. Acacia trees have a whole army of ants to protect them, while elephants rely on egrets to keep them parasite-free. And it's because of bees, wasps, and butterflies that we have tasty fruit and vegetables to eat.
<i>Fur, Feather, Fin—All of Us Are Kin</i>	Diane Lang	2018	<i>Fur, Feather, Fin—All of Us Are Kin</i> by Diane Lang is a children's nonfiction picture book that uses rhyming text and illustrations by Stephanie Laberis to explore the diversity and interconnectedness of the animal kingdom, from mammals and birds to reptiles, amphibians, and insects, emphasizing that all creatures share basic needs and are related. The book defines different animal groups by their characteristics (like fur, feathers, or fins) and highlights commonalities, including the fact that humans are also mammals, making it a celebration of biodiversity for young readers.
<i>Give Bees a Chance</i>	Bethany Barton	2017	The book uses a conversational, first-person narrator to persuade a skeptical friend—and by extension, the reader—to “give bees a chance.” Barton weaves facts about pollination, honey production, and bee anatomy into a playful dialogue that demystifies bees and highlights their ecological value. The tone balances scientific accuracy with comic relief to keep children engaged.
<i>How Does a Seed Sprout?</i>	Melissa Stewart	2014	What is a seed—and will all of them eventually become plants? What happens to plants in winter? Why do leaves come in so many sizes and shapes? Do insects help plants, or harm them? A virtual garden of information grows here for young readers to enjoy.
<i>If Bees Disappeared</i>	Lily Williams	2021	The rolling hills and lush climate of Kent, England are home to many creatures. These creatures are fluffy, sneaky, spikey, and ... small, like the bee. Though bees are small, their importance is BIG. Today there are over 250,000 species of bees but all of them are in danger. Because of disease, pesticide exposure, lack of foraging habitats, and poor nutrition, entire honey bee hives are dying.
<i>If You Love Honey: Nature's Connections</i>	Martha Sullivan	2015	Teach kids how bees make honey and all the living creatures that help make it possible in this vibrantly illustrated picture book! Includes educational backmatter with information on the pollination process, honey, nectar, the honeybee ecosystem, and more.

			Bees make honey, but did you know that the entire process depends on the lives of dandelions, mushrooms, oak trees, and even blue jays? If you love honey, you better love all of them, too! This beautifully illustrated book builds on "if you love honey," and introduces young readers to all the living things that help make honey production possible. Perfect for kids who always wonder, "how do bees make honey?" and parents, teachers, and librarians looking for honeybee books for children and springtime books for kids.
<i>Monarch Butterflies: Explore the life journey of one of the winged wonders of the world</i>	Ann Hobbie	2021	Monarchs are a favorite and familiar North American butterfly, and their incredible annual migration has captured the popular imagination for generations. As populations of monarchs decline dramatically due to habitat loss and climate change, interest in and enthusiasm for protecting these beloved pollinators has skyrocketed. With easy-to-read text and colorful, engaging illustrations, <i>Monarch Butterflies</i> presents young readers with rich, detailed information about the monarchs' life cycle, anatomy, and the wonders of their signature migration, as well as how to raise monarchs at home and the cultural significance of monarchs in Day of the Dead celebrations. As the book considers how human behavior has harmed monarchs, it offers substantive ways kids can help make a positive difference. Children will learn how to turn lawns into native plant gardens, become involved in citizen science efforts such as tagging migrating monarchs and participating in population counts, and support organizations that work to conserve butterflies.
<i>My Pollinator Garden: How I plant for bees, butterflies, beetles, and more</i>	Jordan Zwetchken-baum	2025	Bees need pollen and nectar from flowers. But not all flowers feed all bees. Some bees need long, narrow flowers. Some bees need short flowers. Some tiny bees can't fly far and need flowers that are nearby. Some bees can take pollen from only one particular kind of flower. Those bees are in trouble if that flower isn't available to them. Flies, wasps, beetles, bats, birds, and butterflies need flowers too. This book is about amazing animals and plants that are native to North America, how they need each other to survive, and how you can help them. Back matter has information about how you can grow your own pollinator garden, as well as a glossary, bibliography, and index.

			An excellent choice for parents and educators looking for books that provide content knowledge (background knowledge) about the natural world to support reading comprehension.
<i>Something Wonderful</i>	Matt Ritter	2021	This educational and interactive picture book immerses the reader in the strange and interwoven lifecycles of a tropical fig tree in the rainforest, and the tiny insects and colorful creatures that call it home. Following the growth of a seed dropped into the canopy of a rainforest tree by a flying toucan, <i>Something Wonderful</i> teaches the interdependence of rainforest ecology in an easy-to-follow, captivating story. Flip the beautifully illustrated pages and experience the journey of the fig seedling making roots and leaves, growing strong, eventually replacing the giant tree that was its host, making figs, attracting pollinators, and developing its life-giving seeds. Something Wonderful happens next. The delectable fig fruit is hungrily eaten by a passing toucan who, upon flight, aimlessly drops a seed from its poop into the treetops below, beginning the fig's lifecycle once again. Discover additional scientific information about the pollination process, insects, and animals found in the story in an illustrated section at the end of the book. Readers can play a "seek and find" game of locating the elusive red-eyed tree frog on each page of the story. Take a journey, from the tiny to the grand, while making your way through the tropical rainforest on the path to uncover <i>Something Wonderful</i>...
<i>Summer's Flight, Pollen's Delight: meet the bees, butterflies, birds and other creatures who keep our world green and alive!</i>	Flora C Caputo	2019	Pollination is important to our world. It helps grow our food, our flowers, and our plants. Bees and butterflies get most of the attention as important "pollen movers" for our flowers. But you may be surprised at who else does this important job. Come into the garden, and meet these amazing creatures, and find out how you can help keep the world green and alive! Jump into the vibrant world of pollinators with your family, with clever rhyme, pollinator facts, pollinator-helper tips, and lush watercolor illustrations.
<i>The Buzz on Bees: Why are</i>	Shelley Rotner &	2010	<i>The Buzz on Bees: Why Are They Disappearing?</i> by Shelley Rotner and Anne Woodhull is a 2010 non-fiction book for young readers that explains the decline of bee populations, focusing on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). It covers the importance of bees for

<i>They Disappearing</i>	Anne Woodhull		pollination, potential causes like disease, habitat loss, and pesticides, and offers simple actions kids can take to help, all illustrated with photographs.
<i>The Hidden Rainbow: A springtime book for kids</i>	Christie Matheson	2020	All the colors of the rainbow are hidden in the garden, but can the little bee find them—with help from the reader? Christie Matheson, author of the popular and acclaimed <i>Tap the Magic Tree</i> , brings a garden to life in this bright, interactive picture book about the natural world—and our place within it.
<i>The Honeybee</i>	Kirsten Hall	2018	Hall’s text uses rhythmic, onomatopoetic verse to evoke the motion and sound of a bee at work. The narrative introduces young readers to pollination, community, and the natural cycle of nectar collection. Arsenault’s mixed-media illustrations—characterized by bold yellows, inky blacks, and warm florals—mirror the energy and optimism of the verse.
<i>The Mighty Pollinators</i>	Helen Frost	2024	The book combines short, rhythmic poems with macro photographs of pollinators dusted in pollen and visiting flowers. Frost’s text invites children to notice details—powdery pollen grains, delicate wings, hovering movements—while introducing basic concepts like what pollen is, how pollination works, and why it matters to “fruit and flowers.” Back matter expands on the science, explaining pollen and pollination in accessible prose, offering observation tips, and suggesting ways kids can help pollinators (planting flowers, avoiding pesticides, and creating pollinator-friendly habitats).
<i>Up in the Garden Down in the Dirt</i>	Kate Messner	2015	The book follows a young girl and her grandmother tending their garden through the year. Above ground, readers see plants growing, insects buzzing, and vegetables ripening; below, they discover worms, beetles, and roots working unseen. The text highlights ecological balance, the rhythm of seasons, and human connection to nature.
<i>What’s Inside a Bird’s Nest</i>	Rachel Ignotofsky	2022	The book explores how different bird species build and use nests to protect their eggs and raise chicks. It emphasizes variation in materials, shapes, and habitats—from tree branches and cliffs to ground burrows. Ignotofsky’s illustrations combine cross-section diagrams and labeled artwork, encouraging curiosity about natural design and animal behavior.

<i>What's Inside a Flower?</i>	Rachel Ignotofsky	2021	Budding backyard scientists can start exploring their world with this stunning introduction to these flowery show-stoppers--from seeds to roots to blooms. Learning how flowers grow gives kids beautiful building blocks of science and inquiry. In the launch of a new nonfiction picture book series, Rachel Ignotofsky's distinctive art style and engaging, informative text clearly answers any questions a child (or adult) could have about flowers.
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Texts with Authors/Illustrators from Maine

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Blueberries for Sal</i>	Robert McCloskey	1948	Kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk! Sal and her mother are picking blueberries to can for the winter. But when Sal wanders to the other side of Blueberry Hill, she discovers a mama bear preparing for her own long winter. Meanwhile, Sal's mother is being followed by a small bear with a big appetite for berries! Will each mother go home with the right little one?
<i>Miss Rumphius</i>	Barbara Cooney	1985	Barbara Cooney's story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went.

Wabanaki Culture

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Bud Finds Her Gift</i>	<i>Robin Wall Kimmerer</i>	2025	When young Bud sees people bustling around, intent on their chores and their screens, she is certain they must be doing important things, and she wants to be included. But wise Nokomis, her grandmother, shows her that there is a different way to find belonging, one that relies on stillness and observing the natural world. As Bud discovers the freely given gifts of the Earth, she wonders if she has something important to give back.
<i>Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story</i>	Danielle Greendeer (Mashpee Wampanoag), Anthony Perry (Chickasaw), Alexis Bunten (Unangan/Yup'ik) and beautifully illustrated by Garry Meeches Sr. (Anishinaabe)	2022	Written and illustrated by four Indigenous creators, this beautiful picture book honors both the history and tradition that surrounds the story of the first Thanksgiving. Discover the first Thanksgiving through Wampanoag eyes, as the Native Americans teach the Pilgrims to grow the three sisters—corn, beans, and squash—for a successful harvest. with additional resources and information.
<i>The Land Knows Me</i>	<i>Leigh Joseph</i>	2025	An educational, hands-on journey to discover all the wonderful uses and gifts of the plants around us. Through the Indigenous traditions of Squamish culture, you'll learn how to ground yourself on the land, how to introduce yourself in the Squamish language to your plant relatives, and the many teachings about plants, cultural stories, and learnings related to the flora seen on your walk.
<u><i>Npisun (Medicine) In the Wabanaki Forest</i></u>	Community Forests International	2022	Join Cecelia Brooks from St. Mary's First Nation, New Brunswick, and her son Anthony Bardwell, as they share their story of finding medicine from and on the land. Watch their traditional medicine harvest, listen to the challenge of accessing lands, and find hope from one settler landowner who passes on the knowledge from his own ancestors.

			Note: This text could connect to <i>The Land Knows Me</i> . It would require background knowledge about the ways that indigenous people have been forced off their lands.
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