

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #80



### Zinnia

FLOWERING PLANT

#### HABITAT

Native to Central America and Mexico.

#### COMPOUND FLOWER

The zinnia comes in many different colors, such as pink, purple, red, orange, and yellow. What looks like petals are the ray flowers. They attract pollinators to the tiny flowers inside. Look at the zinnia close up to see each of the tiny yellow flowers inside. These flowers are called disc flowers. They hold the pollen and nectar for the bees and butterflies.



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL



### DO YOU ENJOY HAVING VISITORS?

When we have guests stay at our home, we may clean and organize, cook special meals, or plan fun things. We enjoy guests, whether they are people or animals.

Two years ago, I collected flower seeds. I had hoped to grow flowers from seeds instead of buying them from the store. Last year, I tossed a few seeds on the ground, but only two plants grew. This spring, I decided to start the seeds inside. I placed my seeds on good soil and bought a grow light. I watered them and waited. When the root and first leaves grew, I moved the new plant to a pot.

When the zinnia had 4–6 leaves, I moved it out into the garden. With only leaves, I would have to wait to see the flower color. One by one, the flowers opened. One by one, they attracted guests. The bees, wasps, hummingbirds, and butterflies arrived. They came to dine on the sweet nectar and to pollinate the flowers.

HONEYBEE



MONARCH



Weeks of preparation and care went into growing my zinnias from seed. All of the work was worth it, seeing these beautiful flowers, and having moments with my pollinator guests.

Have you ever heard the word "hospitality"? It means being kind and welcoming to people who visit. God wants us to be kind and helpful to everyone—even people we don't know well. Jesus served others well. Even though He was God, He didn't ask others to serve Him. (Mark 10:45).

Do you feel excited or grouchy when company comes over? The Bible says in 1 Peter 4:9, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." That means we should be kind without complaining. When we think of others first, we're showing love like Jesus did.