

Name _____

Inviting Beneficial Insects and Pollinators to Your Garden

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. In my garden, I've attracted beneficial insects like ladybugs and lacewings by avoiding the use of pesticides and providing plants that attract them. As a result, I've noticed fewer aphids and other harmful pests, indicating the success of these strategies.
2. Three essential tips for attracting beneficial insects and pollinators are:
 - Plant a variety of native flowers: Native plants are adapted to the local ecosystem, making them attractive to local insects and pollinators.
 - Avoid pesticides: Pesticides can harm beneficial insects, disrupting the garden's natural balance.
 - Provide water and shelter: Insects and pollinators need water sources and shelter for breeding and resting.
3. One unique beneficial insect is the hoverfly, often mistaken for a small bee or wasp due to its appearance. Hoverflies are valuable pollinators and beneficial predators in their larval stage. Their larvae feed on aphids, which helps control aphid populations in the garden. By doing so, hoverflies contribute to both pollination and natural pest control in the garden ecosystem.

