

# Pollination

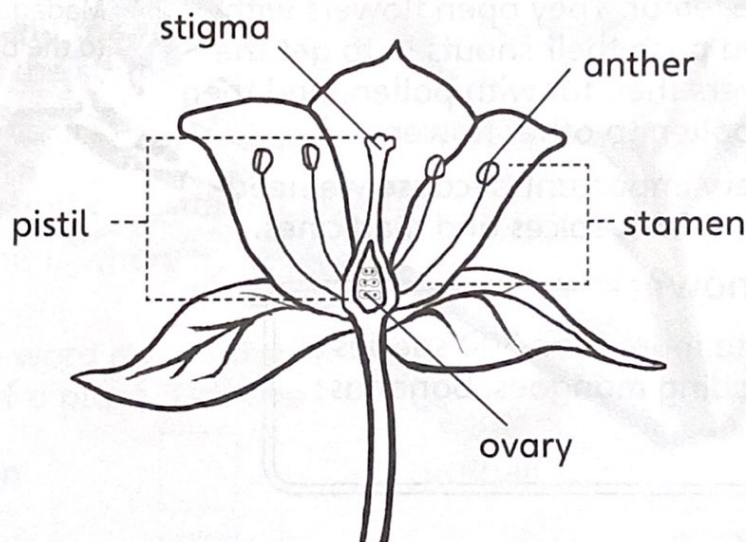
Pollination is how pollen is carried from plant to plant. It starts the process that allows new plants to grow. Insects, wind and water help to pollinate plants.

*Pollen is a dust found in flowers.*



Pollen is found at the end of a flower's stamen. Stamens are long and thin and there's something called an anther at the end of each one. This holds the pollen.

To make a new plant, the pollen must reach the female part of the plant called the pistil. At the top of the pistil is the sticky stigma, which the pollen sticks to. The pollen works its way down the pistil to the ovary, where seeds are made.



Lots of different insects feed on the nectar inside flowers. As they drink the nectar, they pollinate the flowers by taking the pollen from one flower to the next. The bees, ants, flies, butterflies, moths and beetles eat the nectar, and some of the flower's pollen rubs off on them. When they fly to the next flower, the pollen goes with them, and gets stuck on the stigma. Birds and bats move pollen between plants in the same way as insects.

*Nectar is a sugary liquid made by plants.*



Flowers and plants have different shapes, smells and colours to attract different pollinators. Butterflies prefer flat petals that they can land on. Bees are most interested in blue and violet colours. The smell of a flower is really important for night-time pollinators, like bats and moths.

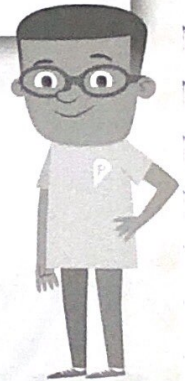
**Did you know?**

The honeybee pollinates more flowers than any other insect.

However, it is not just birds, bats and insects who help with pollination. The world's largest pollinator is the lemur. They open flowers with their fingers and push their snouts in to get the nectar. This covers their fur with pollen, and then they carry the pollen to other flowers.

Pollination is very important because we need plants for food, drinks, spices and medicines.

A lemur is a mammal from Madagascar, related to the bushbaby.



**Did you know?**

Bats pollinate more than 300 species of fruit, including mangoes, bananas and apples.