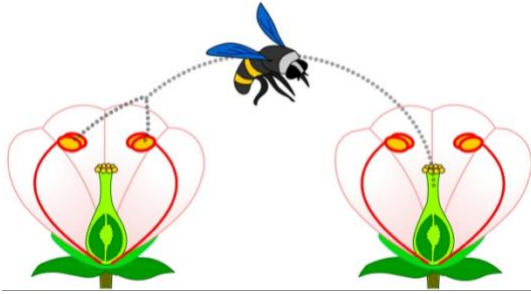


Science V13/S2 - Pollinators

Reproduction is one of the characteristics of living things. All life reproduces by making offspring. Most plants need to make a seed to reproduce and for many of those plants, they use a process called pollination.



Pollination is when a small, yellow grain, called pollen, is transferred between the male and female part of a plant. The male part of the plant, called the stamen, produces the pollen. The female part of the plant, called the pistil, needs to receive pollen to make a seed.



Sometimes pollination is done by the help of the wind, like for grasses, but many flowering plants need some help to move their pollen. Animals that help to move pollen are called pollinators. A pollinator is usually attracted to a plant by its bright flowers or fruits. Plants have evolved to produce substances like sweet nectar or delicious fruit so

that the pollinators want to visit the plant. When the pollinator is there getting some food, its body brushes up against the pollen grains and some of them stick to the animal. Then, when the animal goes to visit the next plant, they bring that pollen with them.

Pollinators are very important, not just for the environment but also to ensure we have the food we need to eat. Many types of farms, like almond and apple farms, will bring in boxes of bees when it's time for the flowers to be pollinated. Without these bees, farmers wouldn't be able to make enough of the food we like to eat.



Bees are probably the most famous pollinators, but they are not the only ones. Other types of pollinators include butterflies, birds, and even bats! These pollinators are essential in making sure that plants can reproduce because if a plant loses its pollinator, that plant may no longer be able to exist.

