

How Flowers Become Fruit

What do birds, bees, beetles, ants and butterflies all have in common?

They are all pollinators! Many flowers depend on relationships with pollinators to reproduce. Let's see how it works:

1. Pollinators travel from flower to flower to collect nectar (food). While doing that, a pollinator accidentally carries pollen (yellow powder) from one flower to the next.

 **Pollinator**
Look for yellow powder on an insect's legs.


Pollen
Egg

2. If the pollen lands in the right spot on the flower (stigma), the pollen grains move down through the style into the ovary where they fertilize the egg.

3. Once the egg is fertilized, it grows into a seed and the surrounding area grows into a fruit!

Fruit

illustrations by David Williams. WinginItWorks

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FLOWER POWER



WOW, these flowers smell so good! No wonder pollinators love them.

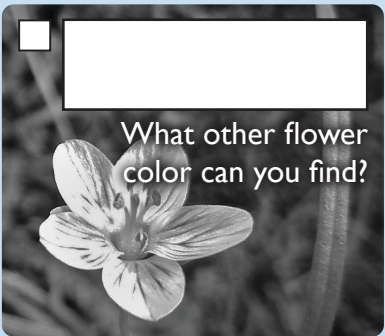
Flowers are uniquely designed to attract certain pollinators. Use this brochure to learn about the diverse, beautiful world of flowering plants!

Flowers Attract Pollinators

Use the clues in this brochure to see how a flower's size, shape, color and smell have the power to attract unique pollinators.

Nature's Color Palette

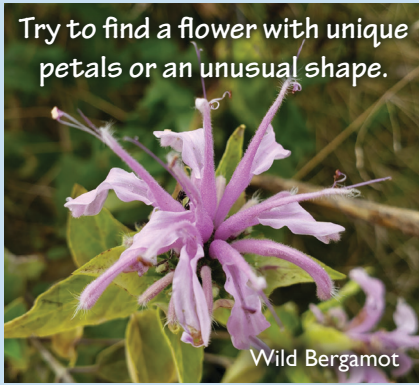
Certain colors attract certain kinds of pollinators. How many colors of flowers can you find?



What flower color are you attracted to? _____

Petal Persuasion

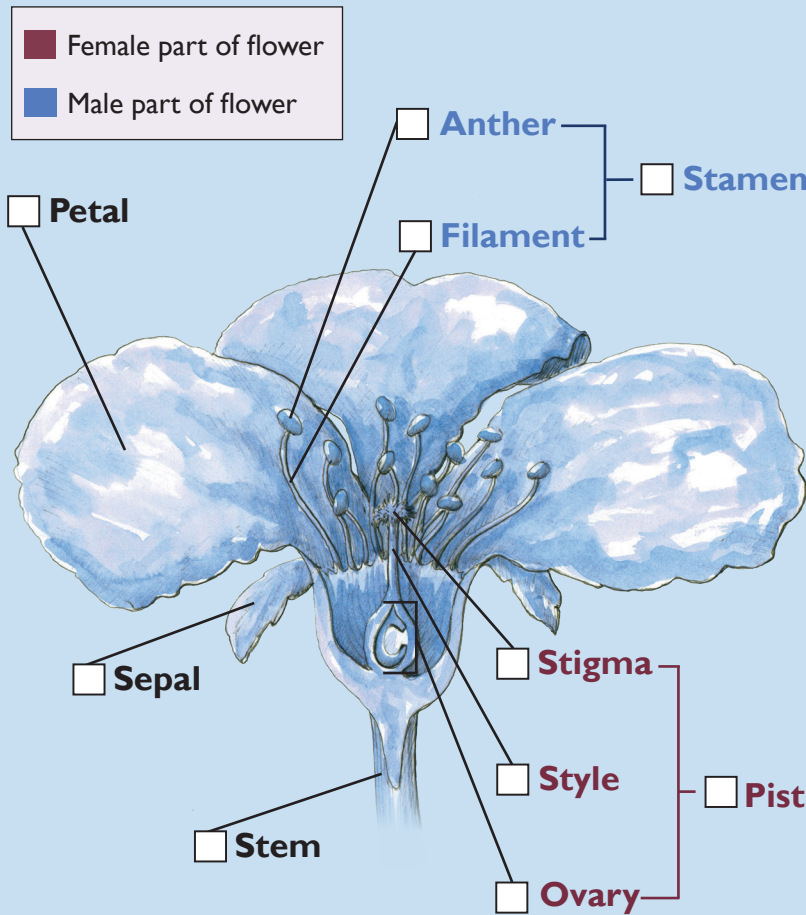
Like a billboard catches a person's attention, petals are used to attract pollinators to a flower. The petals' smell and shape depends on its pollinators' feeding and landing preferences. See if you can find shapes that look like a cup, pinwheel, or trumpet.



Draw a flower you find.

Parts of a Flower

Flowers come in many different shapes and sizes, but they all have the same basic parts. Look closely at a flower and see how many of its parts you can find.



The Need for Pollinators

Pollinators and the flowering plants that need them are both important to humans. More than 180,000 different plant species need pollinators, including many that produce fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Did you know that one out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators?

