

The life cycle of flowering plants

KEYSTAGE 1-2 SCIENCE



DISCOVER

Bumble bee on Echinacea Purpurea flower >

Meet the bees...

At Marks Hall Estate, we have a wonderful collection of beautiful and wild flowers growing across our Estate, which all help attract a huge variety of insects, including many types of bee.

You may have seen different bees in your garden, window box, school or park and wondered what it was they were doing, going from flower to flower all day long.

Here we explain how flowers and bees enjoy a special relationship which allows them both to survive and flourish!

> Bumble bee on Rosehip >

Honey bee on Sarcococca Confusa >

INTRODUCTION

We all love beautiful flowers in our gardens and woodlands. But how do flowering plants make more flowering plants? They don't lay eggs like chickens or have babies like humans. Instead they go through a process called 'POLLINATION'.

Pollination happens when a bee visits a flower to drink its nectar and the flower's pollen gets stuck to its body. The bee then transfers the pollen to the flower on another plant. Both the plants and the bees are happy about this, as the bee gets some lovely nectar to drink and the flowering plant gets to make more flowering plants - which is known as reproduction.

Pollination is also really important to us and other animals as without it, many plants wouldn't be able to reproduce and provide us with their fruit and vegetables to eat.

And it's vital to our environment too as plants produce clean air for us to breathe and help to provide us with the water we drink. If there are more plants of all different kinds, this helps to make sure our ecosystems are rich with plant life and well balanced.



Please print out the following pages...



Watch more about pollination on this <u>YouTube</u> video, and then have a go at completing the fun activities!

ACTIVITY 1: Complete the life cycle

Take a look at the following drawing of the pollination process. Can you cut out these labels and stick the different stages in the right place?

> Bee collects pollen from the stamen of a flower while it's drinking nectar

The seed falls to the ground and grows into another flower

The fertilised ovary turns into a seed

Pollen travels down the flower to its ovaries and fertilises the plant

Bee is attracted to a flower by its bright petals and smell

Bee transfers the pollen to the stigma in the flower of another plant





ACTIVITY 2: Label the parts of a flower

Try finding a diagram of parts of a flower online. You could Google 'parts of a flower'. Cut out the labels below, then stick them in the right places on the picture on the next page!



