



ENGLEFIELD ESTATE

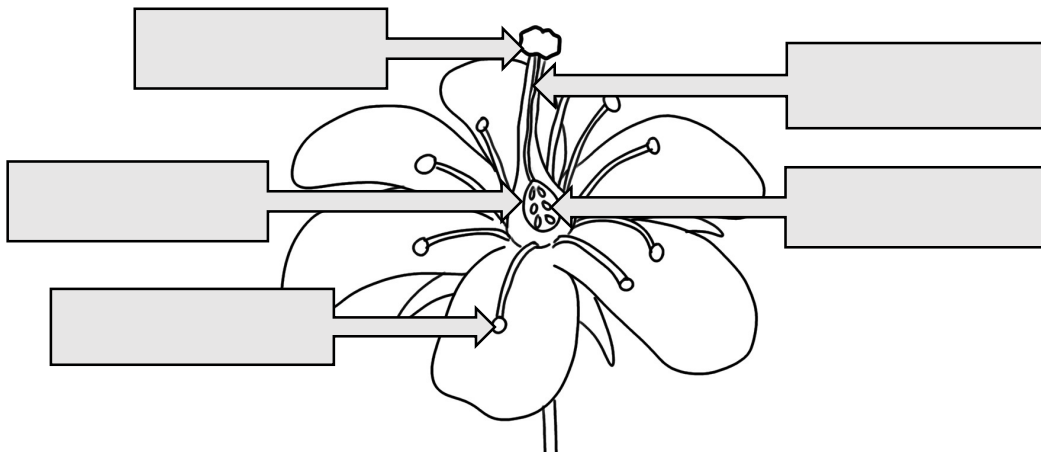
Pollination

Plants reproduce by making seeds that grow into new plants.
To make seeds, flowers on plants must be pollinated.

- * Pollen is found on the male part of a flower, called the **anther**. The pollen needs to get to the female part of a flower, called the **stigma**, on another plant of the same species. This is called cross-pollination.
- * There are two main ways the pollen can move from anther to stigma:
 1. Carried by insects moving from flower to flower
 2. Carried by the wind
- * Once the pollen has moved from anther to stigma, part of the pollen travels down the **style** and into the **ovary**.
- * The piece of pollen joins onto an **ovule** in the ovary. The flower has now been fertilised.
- * Fertilised ovules become seeds, which disperse so new plants can grow.



Using the **bold** words in the description above, can you label the parts of a flower?



Here are two different types of flower on the Englefield Estate.
Which do you think is pollinated by the wind and which is pollinated by insects?



Heather flowers have pretty petals, lots of nectar and large stigma.



Sweetcorn flowers are small and don't have petals, special colour, smell, or nectar. They produce a lot of pollen.



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Lots of crops rely on insect pollination. Here are some examples from the estate.

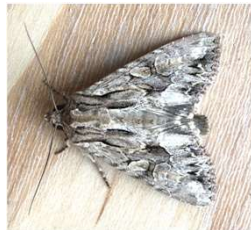


Fruit crops, like strawberries, blueberries and apples need insect cross-pollination to produce lots of nice, big fruit.

Flowering field crops, like oilseed rape, benefit from insect pollination. The number and weight of seeds increases when insects pollinate flowers.

But what insects pollinate crops? There are lots of different types!

- * Nocturnal moths, such as the dark arches moth, come out at night to feed on nectar. They pollinate crops as they move from flower to flower.



- * Hoverflies, such as the marmalade fly, eat other insects called aphids on crop plants. They pollinate flowers at the same time.



- * Butterflies sip nectar from flowers using their long proboscis, pollinating flowers too.



- * About 1,000 beetle species in the UK are pollinators! A common example is the thick-legged flower beetle.



- * Honey bees, solitary bees and bumble bees all collect nectar and are very important pollinators.



- * Wasps are also pollinators, particularly of plants close to their nests.

