



Solve the Pollinator Problem

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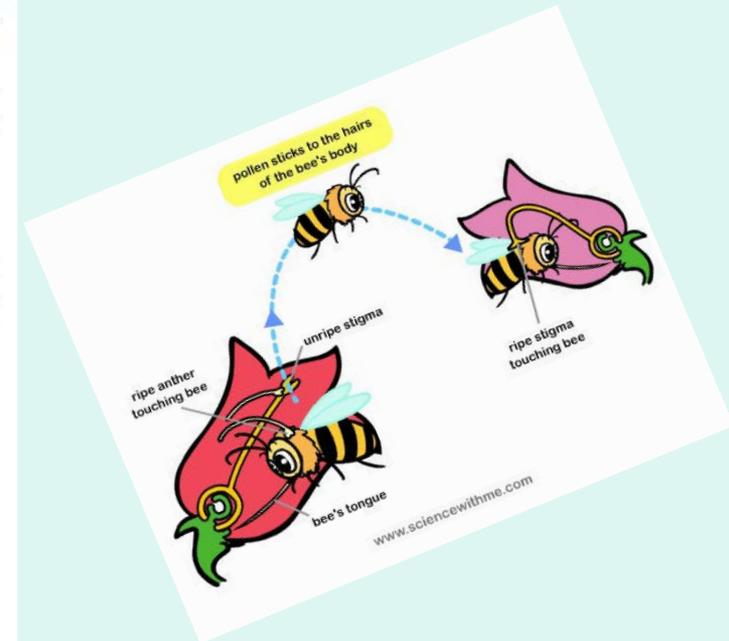
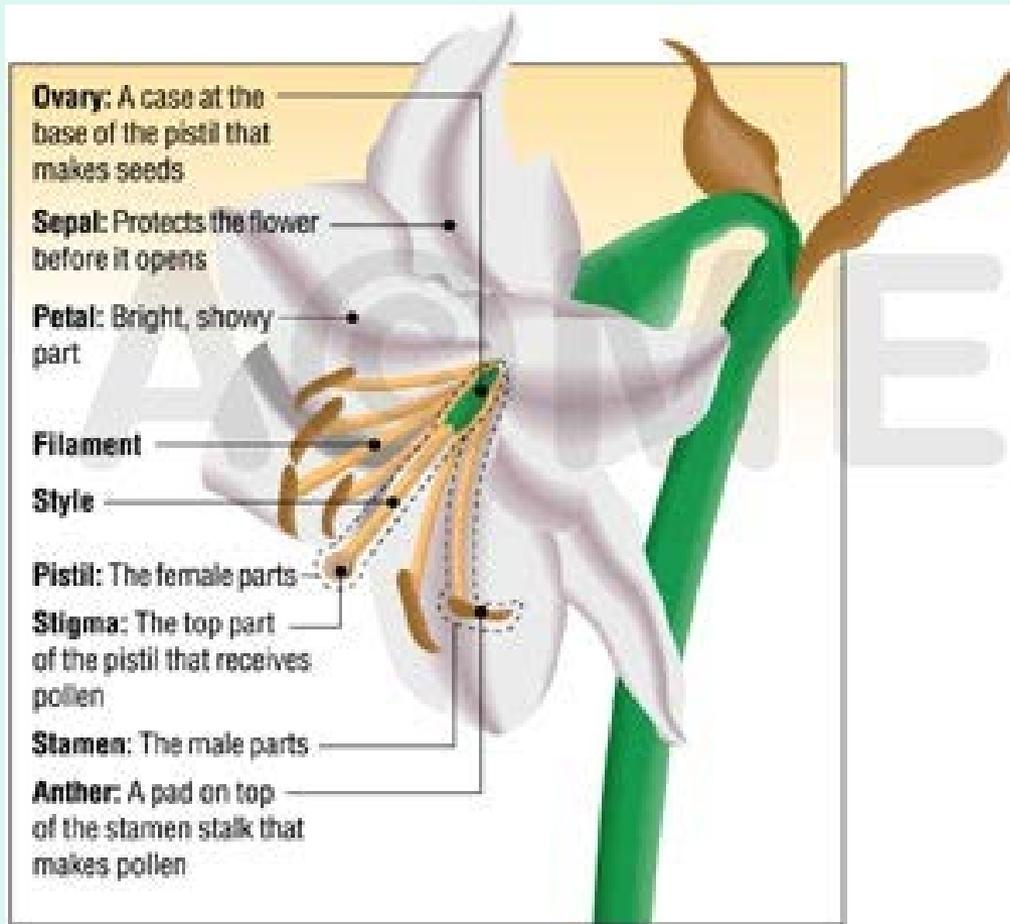
What do all these foods have in common?



THEY ALL
CAME FROM
FLOWERS!

HOW ?

Learn the anatomy of a flower.....



What is Pollination?

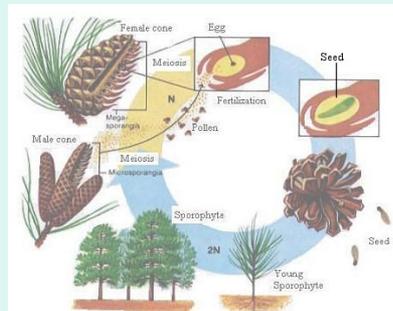
CROSS POLLINATION

This is when a pollinator lands on one flower and carries pollen from the male part of one flower then lands on another flower and transfers the pollen to the female part of the same species of flower.



SELF POLLINATION

This is when the female and male parts of the flower pass around the pollen within the plant. This does not require an outside pollinator.



WIND POLLINATION

This is when the wind picks up the pollen and carries it to other flowers.

POLLEN is the part of the flower that plants need to make new plants from fruits and seeds.

What are Pollinators?

Pollinators are usually creatures that consume nectar from flowers. They pick up pollen from one flower and transfer it to the next flower as they eat. There are thousands of pollinators that help make 1/3 of all the food we eat!



Why do we need pollinators?

We need pollinators because they help plants to make the fruits and seeds we eat like . . .

It's a great thing we have pollinators!!!



Meet our pollinators!

BEES

Bees are **BUSY** pollinators. They pollinate fruit trees and vegetables!!!! There are 1000's of different bees, but **Honey bees** are the **most important** . . . and Honey bees produce a bonus – *honey!* There are about 250 species of **BUBMBLEBEES** that are also important pollinators.



Meet our pollinators!

WASPS

Wasps eat nectar and bugs.
The wasps go to flowers
and eat the small bugs.
While they hunt for bugs
they pollinate the flowers.
The wasps help by eating
insects that hurt our
plants!!!!



Meet our pollinators!

BUTTERFLIES

- ◇ The butterfly pollinators use a mouth piece called a proboscis to sip the nectar. While the butterfly is still sipping the nectar it pollen sticks to their legs. They transfer it to the next flower.



The butterflies like bright flowers to pollinate.



Meet our pollinators!

MOTHS

Did you know that many pollinators work at night? Moths pollinate flowers that are too deep for other pollinators to reach. They use their long proboscis to sip nectar. Most moths are attracted to flowers that have a strong smell.



Meet our pollinators!

FLIES

There are many fly pollinators!!!! Many flies visit flowers to feed on nectar. Hover flies and Bee flies are the most important fly pollinators. They have black and yellow stripes. Flies cannot sting but pretend to sting so they won't get eaten.



Meet our pollinators!

BEEETLES

Some beetles eat pollen and nectar. Some eat other insects that are in flowers.

Ladybugs eat pests called aphids. Hairy beetles are better than smooth surface beetles because the pollen sticks to their hair instead of sliding off.



Meet our pollinators!

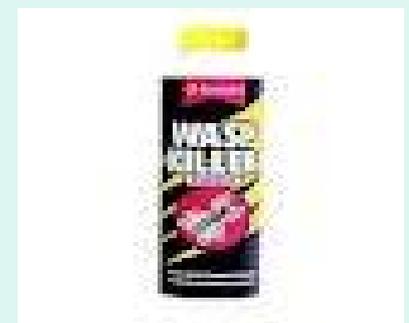
OTHER POLLINATORS

Humming birds pollinate by putting its long beak into flowers to drink nectar. **BATS** pollinate and eat the nectar in plants at night! When the **LIZARDS** are in flowers the pollen sticks to them. About 2,000 kinds of **BIRDS** around the world pollinate flowers also.



So what is the problem?

People are *building in natural habitats*.
Animals lose their homes. Humans are using
PESTICIDES that kill beneficial insects.
DISEASES are spreading among pollinators.
HONEYBEES are disappearing world wide,
we don't know why. Scientists have found
mites that feed on their body fluids.



Why are BEES so important?

Bees are especially important pollinators because they are very busy, hard workers that pollinate huge numbers of flowers during their lifetimes.



BUT . . .
THEY AND OTHER POLLINATORS
ARE IN DANGER!!!

SOLVE the POLLINATOR PROBLEM!!

What can we do?



EDUCATE OTHERS

Tell why bees, wasps, flies, beetles are not pests they are IMPORTANT POLLINATORS!

OUR FOOD DEPENDS on them.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

- ~Plant native plant species
- ~Protect wildlife habitat
- ~Create a BUTTERFLY Garden
- ~Plant a vegetable garden
- ~REDUCE USE OF CHEMICALS –Use NATURAL pesticides and fertilizers
- ~Place Butterfly, Bee and Ladybug boxes in your yard



THANK A POLLINATOR TODAY!

Count the number of times you eat a
food made possible by a pollinator.

Soon you will see how we need

to work together to SOLVE THE POLLINATOR PROBLEM!



For more information:

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Much of the information in this slide show came from:
What is Pollination? by Bobbie Kalman
Crabtree Publishing