

WHAT IS POLLINATION?

The connection that sustains life.

DID YOU KNOW?

When a bee goes out to forage, she will only go to one particular species of flower on each trip, sometimes for hours or days on end.



Common eastern bumble bee
Bombus impatiens

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the male part of a flower (anther) to the female part (stigma). This natural process allows plants to reproduce, creating seeds, fruits, and the foods we rely on every day.

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, birds, bats, beetles, and even the wind play a vital role in this process.

PARTS OF A FLOWER

Scarlet rose mallow, *Hibiscus coccineus*

STIGMA

Sticky tip of the female part that receives pollen.

STYLE

The stalk that connects the stigma to the ovary.

OVARY

The base of the flower that contains ovules. After fertilization, it develops into fruit.



ANTHER

The part of the stamen that produces pollen grains.

FILAMENT

The stalk that holds up the anther.

SEPAL

Leaf-like parts that protect the flower bud.

PETAL

Often colorful to attract pollinators.

WHO ARE THE POLLINATORS?



Bees

Hardworking and essential for many plants and crops.



Butterflies

Beautiful pollinators that help many flowers thrive.



Birds

Especially hummingbirds, help pollinate flowers as they feed.



Bats

Active at night, bats pollinate many night-blooming plants.



Beetles

One of the earliest pollinators, small but important.

THE POLLINATION PROCESS



1

A pollinator visits a flower to collect nectar or pollen.



2

Pollen from the anther sticks to the pollinator.



3

The pollinator visits another flower of the same species.



4

Pollen is transferred to the stigma.



5

Fertilization occurs, leading to seeds, fruits, and new plants.

HOW MANY FLOWERS CAN A BEE POLLINATE?



A single honey bee can visit **50 to 100** flowers on one trip from the hive.



A bee can pollinate **hundreds** of flowers during a single day, on ten to fifteen trips from the hive.



It may take **ten or more** bee visits to a single apple blossom before it sets one apple.

EASY WAYS TO HELP



PLANT NATIVE, POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY FLOWERS.

Choose a variety of native plants that provide nectar and pollen from spring to fall.



PROVIDE WATER AND SHELTER.

A shallow water source and natural habitat make a big difference.



AVOID PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS.

They can harm pollinators and reduce food sources.



SUPPORT LOCAL FARMS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

Healthy ecosystems support healthy pollinators.

No pollination = **no seeds, no fruits, no future.**



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