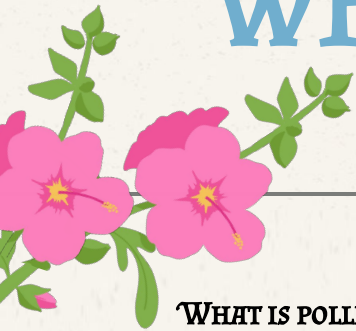




WHAT IS POLLINATION?



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Before a plant can make a seed, it must first undergo a process called **pollination**.

Pollination is the transportation of fine yellow powder called **pollen** from one flower to another by wind, water, or special helper creatures called **pollinators**.

Some types of flowers can pollinate themselves.

WHO ARE THE POLLINATORS?

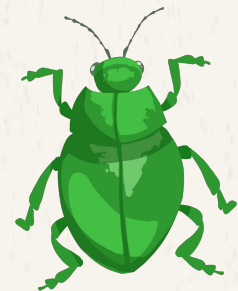
The major pollinators are bees, wasps, ants, small birds, butterflies, beetles, moths, bats, flies, and small mammals.



Flowers use **nectar**, a sugary liquid, to entice pollinators to visit. While drinking their nectar, pollinators brush against the flower's pollen distributors, called **anthers**. The pollen then sticks to the pollinators.

A pollinator will then visit other flowers to drink nectar, and may rub up against a flower's pollen receiver, called the **stigma**. This allows a flower to create a seed and reproduce.

While most pollinators are active during the day, some such as moths, bats, and beetles are active during the night. Certain flowers bloom only at night in order to attract these pollinators.



WHY ARE POLLINATORS IMPORTANT?

75-95% of all flowering plants rely on pollinators to help them reproduce.

Pollinators are vital to their **ecosystems**, a community of organisms, plants, and their environment working together, for this reason.

Pollination is necessary before a flower can create a seed and grow "children" plants. This means that pollinators are crucial in **agriculture**, the process of growing crops and providing food for the earth's inhabitants.