



The pollen journey

Did you know that 60% of the world's crops are pollinated by bees? That's why we must protect and support them.

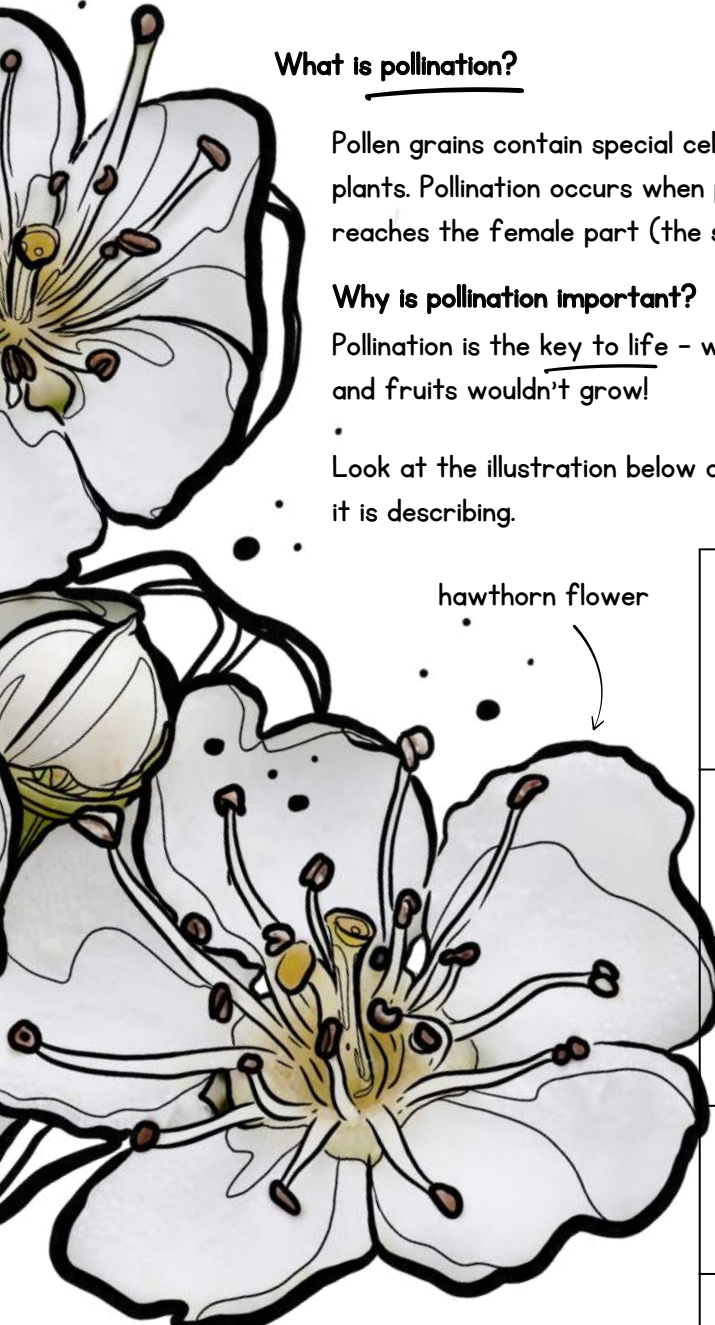
What is pollination?

Pollen grains contain special cells, like little messengers, with the power to create new plants. Pollination occurs when pollen from the male part of a flower (the stamen) reaches the female part (the stigma).

Why is pollination important?

Pollination is the key to life - without pollination, many plants wouldn't be able to make seeds, and fruits wouldn't grow!

Look at the illustration below and draw arrows from the descriptions to the part of the flower it is describing.



hawthorn flower

The **pistil** is the female part of a flower. It is made up of a long style topped by a sticky stigma to catch pollen, at the heart of the flower.

The **ovary** is the enlarged base of the style where female seed cells (ovules) are formed.

The **stamens** are the male parts of the flower. They are made up of a long, thin filament and a round anther.

The **anther** is a small, oval-shaped part that sits on top of the stamen. It's a little pollen factory!

Petals attract animals like bees and butterflies. Some have bright colours or enticing scents.

Bees are an example of a pollinator - they visit flowers for sweet nectar. While collecting nectar, bees gather pollen on their furry bodies. As they fly from flower to flower, some of the pollen transfers to the stigma, enabling pollination to occur.