

# PLANT GROWTH AND REPRODUCTION

## Process of Reproduction

Many plants produce seeds in order to **reproduce** or make new plants. Seeds are produced in the flower of a plant. Flowers have male and female organs that are used to create seeds to grow new plants. The **female organ** of a flower is called the **pistil**. The **pistil** of a flower produces egg cells needed for plant reproduction. The **male organ** of a flower is called the **stamen** which produces pollen.



### Lesson Checkpoint:

*What is the female organ of a flower called?*

Plants need  
Flower petals  
in order to



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This movement of **pollen** from one flower to another is called **pollination**.

- A flower's nectar is located **deep inside the flower** so that when an insect or bird tries to get the nectar it also rubs up against the pollen on the flower as well.
- When **pollen** rubs off on bees, butterflies, and birds, the pollen gets transferred to other flowers.

### Lesson Checkpoint:

*What is one reason a plant has nectar?*

## Fertilization

- **Fertilization** is the process of **sperm cells** from pollen combining with eggs cells in the ovary of a flower.
- After **fertilization** occurs, a plant produces a seed or seeds which are often protected inside a fruit.

## Seeds



- A seed coat **surrounds the seed** and protects it until it is ready to germinate.
- A **seed** contains a leaf, stem, root, and stored food.
- Seeds need the **proper condition** in order to grow, such as oxygen, water, and the proper temperature.
- **Seeds** grow into new plants. The process of a seed **beginning to grow** is called **germination**.

The life cycle of a seed includes all the stages from the seed through different life stages.

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## About Seeds



It is important for seeds to be scattered **away** from the parent plant so that they do not have to compete for the same resources such as space, nutrients in the soil, and water.

Some **seeds** are prickly or have hooks that stick to the fur of some **animals**. These seeds eventually fall off the animal and grow in the soil where they fall. Other seeds are scattered to new soil by the wind.

Some plants, such as mosses and ferns, do not produce seeds but are still able to reproduce. **Mosses and ferns** produce **spores** instead of seeds.

### Lesson Checkpoint:

***What do mosses and ferns produce instead of seeds?***