

Name: _____

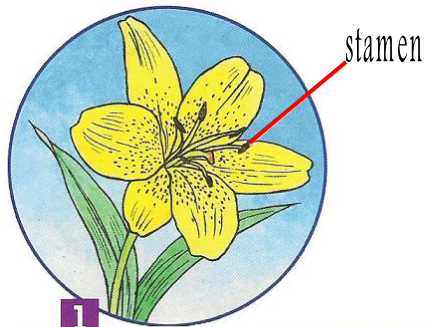
Date: _____

Flowers

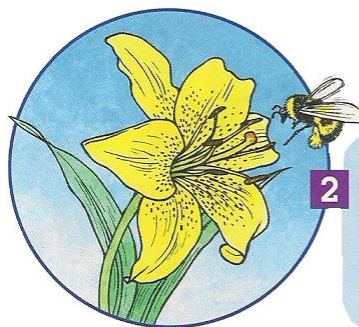
In 2007 DreamWorks released “Bee Movie.” In this movie the bees of the world decide that they should no longer allow people to take their honey, and as a result the bees had no need to collect nectar from flowers. If you have seen the movie, you know that the results are not good, so let’s look at why that might be.



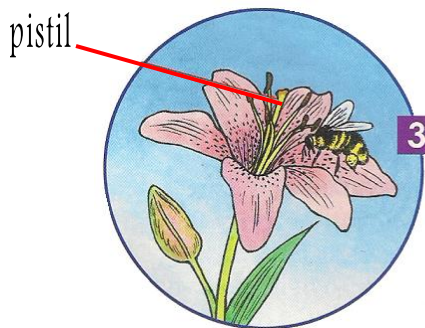
To start, we will look at the process of pollination:



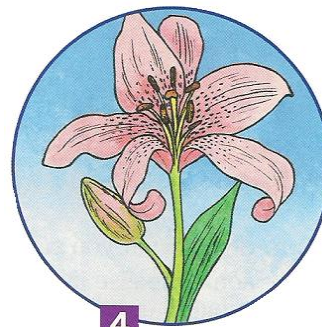
Flowers produce a sweet liquid called **nectar**. Nectar is food for insects. Flowers also produce a special powder called **pollen**. Pollen is produced in a part of the flower called the **stamen**.



Insects such as bees are attracted to the flower by the nectar. Pollen from the flower sticks to them.



Later, the insect moves on to another flower. The pollen stuck on the insect brushes off onto a different part of this flower. This part is called the **pistil**. This process is called **pollination**. Flowers need to be pollinated to make seeds.



Now the flower can make seeds.

1. Based on the information above, why would it be bad if bees stopped collecting nectar to make honey?

Flowers need to be pollinated in order to grow new flowers. When the bees drink the nectar from the flowers they get pollen on their legs and body. They then carry this pollen to another flower, where it rubs off on the pistil. If bees did not drink the nectar, they would not transfer the pollen, and the flowers could not reproduce.

2. What is pollination?

Pollination is the way plants reproduce. It involves transferring pollen from one plant to another.

3. Name two parts of a flower that you have learned today, and explain their job as part of the flower.

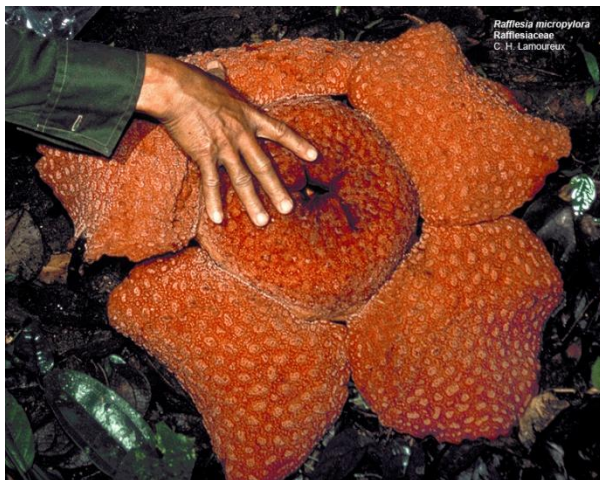
Stamen - produces pollen

Pistil - collects the pollen

4. Are there any other parts of a flower that you already knew?

Petals - We now know that stems, roots, etc are part of the plant, not flower.

Flowers can grow almost anywhere on Earth. Flowers live in the dry deserts and on high mountains. They grow on the edges of glaciers and even under water. Flowers can be very diverse, there are flowers so small you can only see them with a microscope, or there are flowers that are as big as a metre across. Flowers are known to smell nice, but the pelican flower smells like rotting meat. Some flowers are called perennials, which means they grow back every year, but other flowers, called annuals, bloom and die in one growing season.



When you are done find a partner and make a list of as many flowers as you can think of. You can use resources around the room to help you.