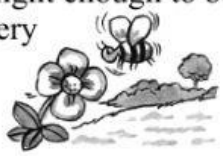
Pollinating flowers

Background knowledge

The process by which pollen gets transferred from one flower to another flower is called *pollination*. This transfer can happen in different ways. Insects such as bees are attracted to bright, scented flowers. When they go into the flower to gather nectar, the spiky pollen sticks to their bodies. The sticky stigma on another flower catches the pollen when the bee lands or flies nearby it. Some flowers use the wind to carry the pollen. Their dangling stamens produce lots of pollen that is light enough to be carried by the wind. The stigmas of these flowers are feathery and hang outside the flower to catch the pollen as it falls.





Science activity

The parts of some flowers are described below. Write **insect** if you think they belong to insect-pollinated flowers or **wind** for wind-pollinated flowers.

1 The stigma is sticky. _____

2 The stamens hang loosely out of the flower. _____

3 The petals are brightly colored and have a scent. _____

4 The stamens are inside of the flower. _____

5 The stigma is feathery. _____

6 The petals are small and green. _____

7 The flower is very small. _____