The egg and sperm cells each have half of the parent plant's DNA. When the two cells join, the two halves come together. They make a cell with a whole set of DNA.

The new cell divides again and again, growing all the time. In time, it becomes a seed with a plant inside. Every cell in this new plant will have the same set of DNA inside.

A new plant gets half of its DNA from each parent. It will look much like its parents, but there might be differences. If a plant with red flowers is pollinated by a plant with white flowers, a plant with pink flowers could follow.

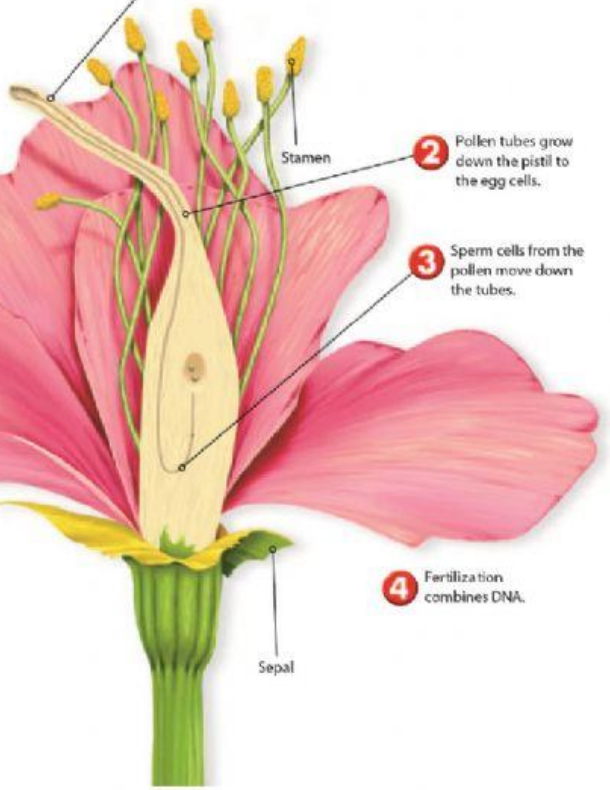


Notice all the hairlike parts in this close-up of the end of a pea plant pistil. The tiny yellow grains are pollen.



After pollination, pollen tubes grow from pollen grains. This allows sperm to move to the egg cell.

Pollination of a Pea Plant



Pollinating different Plants

Put the sentences in order.

_____ The pollen tubes grow down the pistil to the egg cells.

_____ Fertilization combines DNA.

_____ Pollen sticks to the end of the pistil.

_____ Sperms cells from the pollen move down the tubes.

B) Choose T or F.

1_ Two different plants can make a cell with a whole set of DNA.

2_ A new plant gets half of its DNA from only one parent.

3_ Sperm cells from the pollen move up the tubes.

4_ If a plant with red flowers is pollinated by a plant with white flowers, a plant with white flower will grow.

5_ Pollen sticks to the end of the stamen.