



Passing Information

Plants need to reproduce. If they do not, their species will not go on. The offspring of plants look like their parents. The flowers will be the same shape. The leaves will be the same size. Plants have a way of passing on this kind of information. It is passed through DNA. The DNA contains the information to make every part of the plant. When plants reproduce, DNA is passed on. This takes place in flowers.



Small differences in DNA lead to different flower colors in the same species of plant.



Insects find sweet nectar in flowers. As insects move around a flower to get nectar, they may move pollen from stamens to pistils.



Pollination

Reproduction in plants starts with pollination. **Pollination** is when the pollen moves from the stamen to the pistil. Pollination can take place in one plant between the male and female parts. It can also take place between two different plants.

Pollen does not move on its own. Something else must move it. Bats, birds, and insects can take pollen from flower to flower. Or they can move it within a single flower. So can wind and water. Some plants are pollinated in just one way. Others are pollinated in several ways.

When a plant is pollinated, a tube grows from the pollen. It grows down to the bottom of the pistil, where there are egg cells. Then other cells, called sperm cells, move down the tube. They join the egg cells. This is called fertilization. It is the beginning of a new plant.

Passing Information

Match to make correct statements.

1_ The DNA contains

2_ When insects move around a flower to get nectar,

3_ Pollination

4_ Bats, birds and insects

5_ When a plant is pollinated,

A_ can take pollen from flower to flower.

B_ the information to make every part of the plant.

C_ a tube grows from the pollen.

D_ they may move pollen from stamens to pistils.

E_ is when the pollen moves from the stamen to the pistil.

B) Choose T or F.

1_ When plants reproduce, DNA is not passed on.

2_ Insects find sweet nectar in flowers.

3_ Pollen moves on its own

4_ Pollination is when the pollen moves from the stamen to the egg cells.

5_ Pollination can take place in one plant between male and female parts.

C) Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

bats – plants - pollen - pollination – species - several – flower

- 1_ If plants do not reproduce, their _____ will not go on.
- 2_ Reproduction in plants starts with _____.
- 3_ When a plant is pollinated, a tube grows from the _____.
- 4_ _____, birds and insects can take pollen from flower to _____.
- 5_ Some _____ are pollinated in one way and others are pollinated in _____ ways.