

Why do bees visit flowers?

Bees—especially female nest-building bees—collect pollen and nectar to feed themselves and their *offspring* (babies). When bees go in search of pollen and nectar, the fuzzy hairs on their bodies pick up and leave behind pollen. Bees often move pollen this way from one flower to another. This is called *cross-pollination*. Sometimes, the pollen from one flower makes it to the stigma of another flower of the same species. When that happens, the flower is *fertilized* and starts making seeds that grow into fruits we like to eat. Seeds are one of the ways plants make more plants (*reproduce*).

The Parts of a Flower: Bees at Work

The Parts of a Flower

- ✿ Unscramble the words to match the flower part with the definition. If you get stuck, check the word bank! Then color in each flower part the same color as its label in the word bank below.



A honey bee on a cherry blossom just like in the drawing below!

(Inloop)

pollen

a dusty powder that gives bees protein to feed their offspring

(tleap)

petal

color attracts pollinators

(iilpts)

pistil

The female part of the plant made up of the stigma, style and ovary.

(rovya)

ovary

develops into fruit after plant is fertilized. The small ovules (plural of ovary) develop into seeds within the fruit.

(tesm)

stem

supports the flower and carries nutrients from the soil to different plant parts

(agismt)

stigma

pollen-catching platform

(tanerh)

anther

where the pollen forms

(laftimen)

filament

holds up the anther

(ancret)

nectar

a sweet, sugar-rich liquid that gives bees carbohydrates for energy, such as to fly around and look for pollen and then fly home



Just like bees, humans get energy and nutrients in the foods we eat!

Carrot Peach Smoothie

Word Bank:

Anther, Nectar, Ovary, Petal, Pistil, Pollen, Filament, Stem, Stigma

Field Notes: Over time, bees have adapted to survive on only pollen and nectar, a natural sugar. For humans, fruits and vegetables have natural sugars and are great for our health. Added sugars, which humans add to foods to make them sweet, are different. They provide extra calories but few nutrients. They can crowd out nutrient-rich foods and lead to poor health (like obesity, diabetes and heart disease). Nutrition Facts labels list the amount of added sugars in a food.