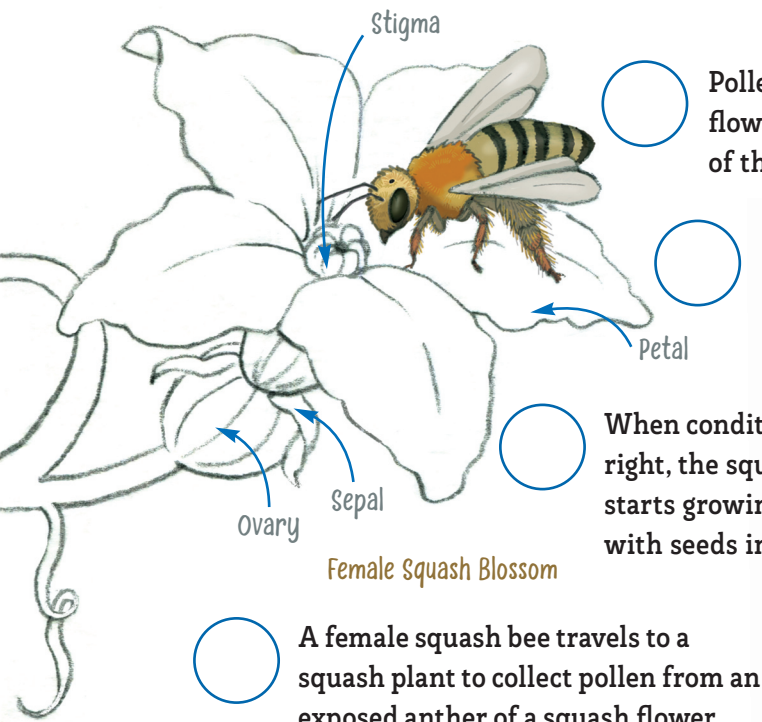


# Pollination in Action

## The Pollination of a Squash Plant

Follow this species of squash bee, *Peponapis pruinosa*, as it pollinates a squash flower. In the circles below, enter the numbers 1 through 6 to put the steps of pollination in order. Step 1 has been filled in for you. When you've finished, color in the flower!



Pollen collected from the first flower falls on the stigma of the second flower.

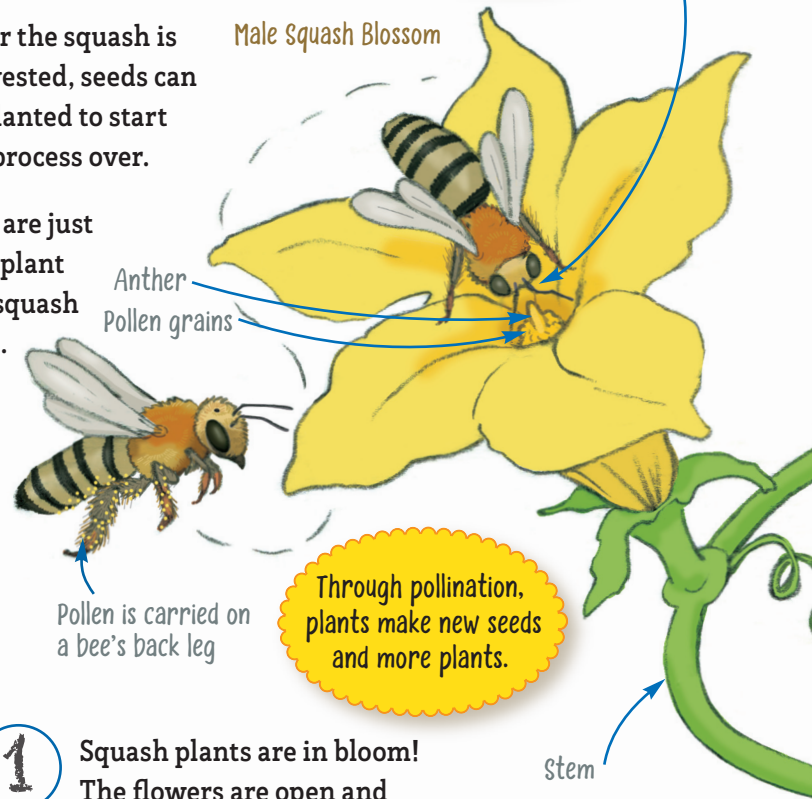
After the squash is harvested, seeds can be planted to start the process over.

When conditions are just right, the squash plant starts growing a squash with seeds inside.

A female squash bee travels to a squash plant to collect pollen from an exposed anther of a squash flower.

The bee travels to another squash plant nearby.

Pollen is produced on anthers and nectar is made at the base of the flower on floral nectaries.



Pollen is carried on a bee's back leg

Through pollination, plants make new seeds and more plants.

**1** Squash plants are in bloom! The flowers are open and the anthers are exposed.



Follow squash bees as they move into Oregon at: [placeholder link.org](http://placeholder.link.org)

## The Story of Squash and Squash Bees in Oregon

We would not have squash bees if not for squash plants and the Indigenous Peoples who formed a reciprocal relationship (taking care of each other) with the plants. This reciprocal relationship began over 10,000 years ago in Central America. As the people slowly **cultivated** the land to grow squash for food and for trade, they created a **migration** of squash to the north and the bees followed!

Squash was not originally part of the traditional diet of Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Only in recent years has enough squash been grown in the region to attract squash bees. In 2017, squash bees were first spotted in Oregon by kids in a garden in Ashland!

