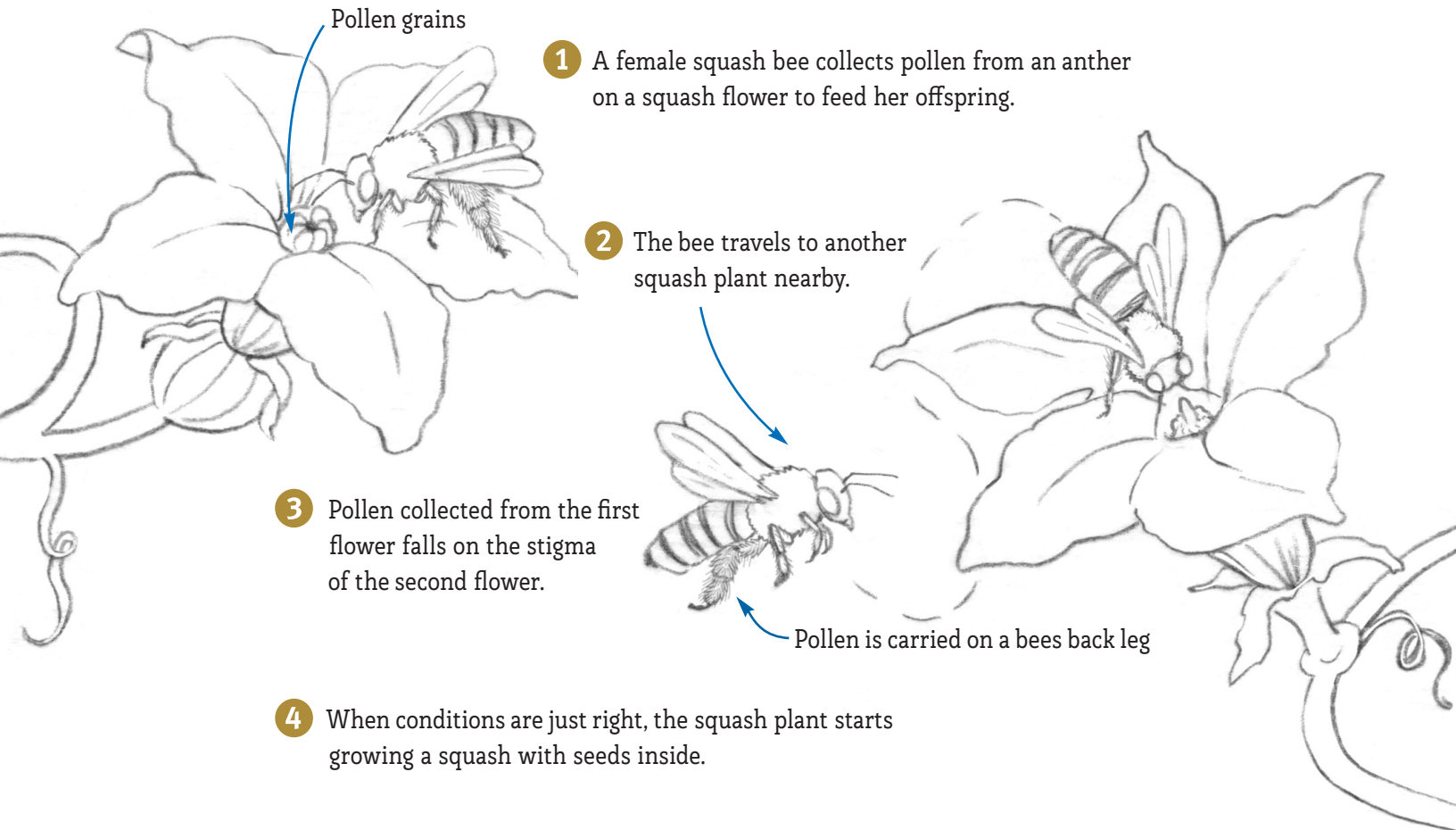


Pollination in Action

The Pollination of a Squash Plant

Follow this species of squash bee, *Peponapis pruinosa*, as it pollinates a squash flower.



The Story of Squash and Squash Bees in Oregon

Squash bees are medium-sized, fuzzy bees that feed only on the nectar and pollen of squash plants. Squash bees have a close link to Indigenous Peoples, who brought squash-growing to what is now North America from what is now Central and South America around 5,000 years ago. The bees followed Indigenous Peoples as they traveled north, planting squash as they moved. Indigenous Peoples and European colonizers for many years never grew enough squash in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon and Washington) to attract the bee, so the squash bee had never been spotted in Oregon. In 2017, kids at a summer camp in Ashland spotted the squash bee in a garden for the first time. See if you can find this bee in your community!

