

Read About Pollination and Seed Dispersal

POLLINATION & SEED DISPERSAL DEFINITION

Pollination and seed dispersal are processes that plants rely on to make new plants. Animals, wind and water can all help plants move their pollen and seeds around.

To better understand how pollination and seed dispersal works...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

Pollen is a powder found inside flowers.

Plants need help from animals to move pollen from one plant to another. An animal that moves pollen from one place to another is called a pollinator.



Bees help to move pollen from one plant to another.

When a bee drinks nectar from one flower, pollen sticks to its legs and body. When the bee flies to a new plant, some of the pollen rubs off on the new flower.

Wind helps move seeds from one place to another.

Moving seeds around is called dispersal. When you blow on a dandelion you are helping to disperse the dandelion seeds. This usually happens with the help of wind.



Another way seeds move is with help from animals.

Animals often eat fruits and seeds. They then move to a new area where they poop out the seeds. New plants grow from the seeds! The poop is like fertilizer.



Some seeds look a lot like Velcro.

Some seeds have tiny hooks that help them stick to the fur of animals. Animals such as dogs or sheep can then move to a new place where the seeds fall off and grow.



Pollen	A powder found inside flowers that is needed to make new plants.
Pollination	The process of moving pollen from one flower to another.
Pollinator	Any animal that moves pollen from one plant to another.
Disperse	To spread around.
Seed	The part of a plant that can grow into new plants.
Seed dispersal	The process of moving seeds from one place to another.

POLLINATION & SEED DISPERSAL QUESTIONS

How does a bee help move pollen?

Pollen sticks to the bee while it drinks nectar and when the bee travels to another plant to drink more nectar, some of the pollen rubs off.

How does animal fur help move a seed from one place to another?

Some seeds stick to the animal's fur. When the animal moves to another area, the seeds could fall off when the animal scratches or rubs against something.

What are some examples of pollinators?

Bees, birds and butterflies. Anything that moves pollen from one place to another is a pollinator.

Why might seeds not grow if they fall right next to the tree?

It may not get enough sunlight since other plants and the parent tree might be blocking the light. There might also be roots growing in that spot and using up most of the water in that spot.

How are some seeds like Velcro?

They have structures that have hooks that stick to other materials, like a dog's fur.

What's one way that a maple seed moves from one place to another?

It looks like a propeller and glides down slowly as it falls. If it is windy, it can travel far away from the parent tree.
