

Life Cycle of a Flowering Plant

Most plants need to be pollinated to reproduce. Flowering plants do this by producing flowers that are designed to entice insects or other animals towards them, so that they can spread their pollen to other plants. This is why so many flowers are colourful and scented; they are designed to attract pollinators.

Seed Distribution

Once the fruit had ripened, the seeds are ready to be distributed. It is vital that they are spread as far as possible. Different plants use many different ways to distribute the seeds: wind, water and animals eating them are just a few examples.

Fruit

If a flower is pollinated, it will turn into a fruit. All flowering plants produce fruit, but not all fruits are edible nor do they all look like traditional fruits. Some fruits turn into seed pods: you can see this with poppies or marigolds.



Germination

With enough light and water, the seed will germinate. The emerging shoots need lots of light, but get most of their nutrients from the seed.



Growing leaves

As the plant grows, it requires more nutrients from the soil. If seeds grow too close together, they will compete for water and nutrients and not grow as strongly.



Flowering

When the flower matures, it will start to produce flowers. These contain both male and female parts. If it is pollinated, this flower will eventually turn into a fruit.

Pollination

All flowering plants rely on animals or insects to pollinate them. Mostly, this is done by insects; however, some plants make use of birds. Each flower needs to be pollinated with pollen from another flower.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which word means to create a new generation?
2. What does the word “emerging” mean?
3. Find a word that means “needs”.
4. If a plant “relies” on an insect or bird to do something, what does that mean?
5. What does the word “edible” tell you about something?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S

What happens to a seed after it has been distributed?

R

What do all flowering plants produce?

I

Why do flowers go to so much effort to attract pollinators?

S

When does a plant start to produce flowers?

R

What do seeds need in order to germinate?



Answers:

1. Reproduce
2. Starting to show
3. Requires
4. It can't do it without its help
5. It can be eaten

S: It germinates

R: Fruit and seeds

I: Without pollinators, they cannot reproduce

S: Once it has matured

R: Light and water