

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons. It is the season that comes after winter. Spring starts on 20th March and ends on 21st June. Spring is the season when we change our clocks forward one hour. We often have a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

What happens to the animals?

Animals such as hedgehogs, grass snakes, lizards, adders, frogs and toads come out of hibernation on the first warm spring days. You might see frogspawn, which looks like jelly.

Some animals move about a lot more in spring, such as squirrels. You can see squirrels scampering about, looking for food and climbing trees.

There are also lots of migrant birds that come back to the UK in the spring. You can see swifts, cuckoos and nightingales.

Hibernation: A time when animals rest and save their energy for the warmer months.

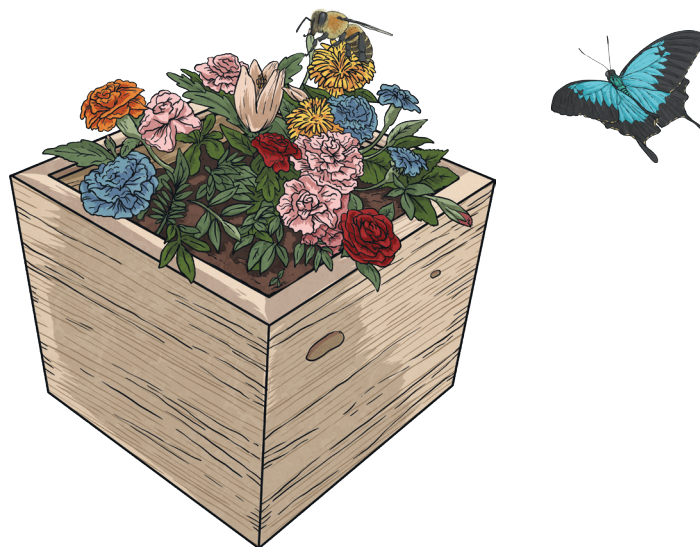
Migrant birds: birds that go to a warmer country for the winter.



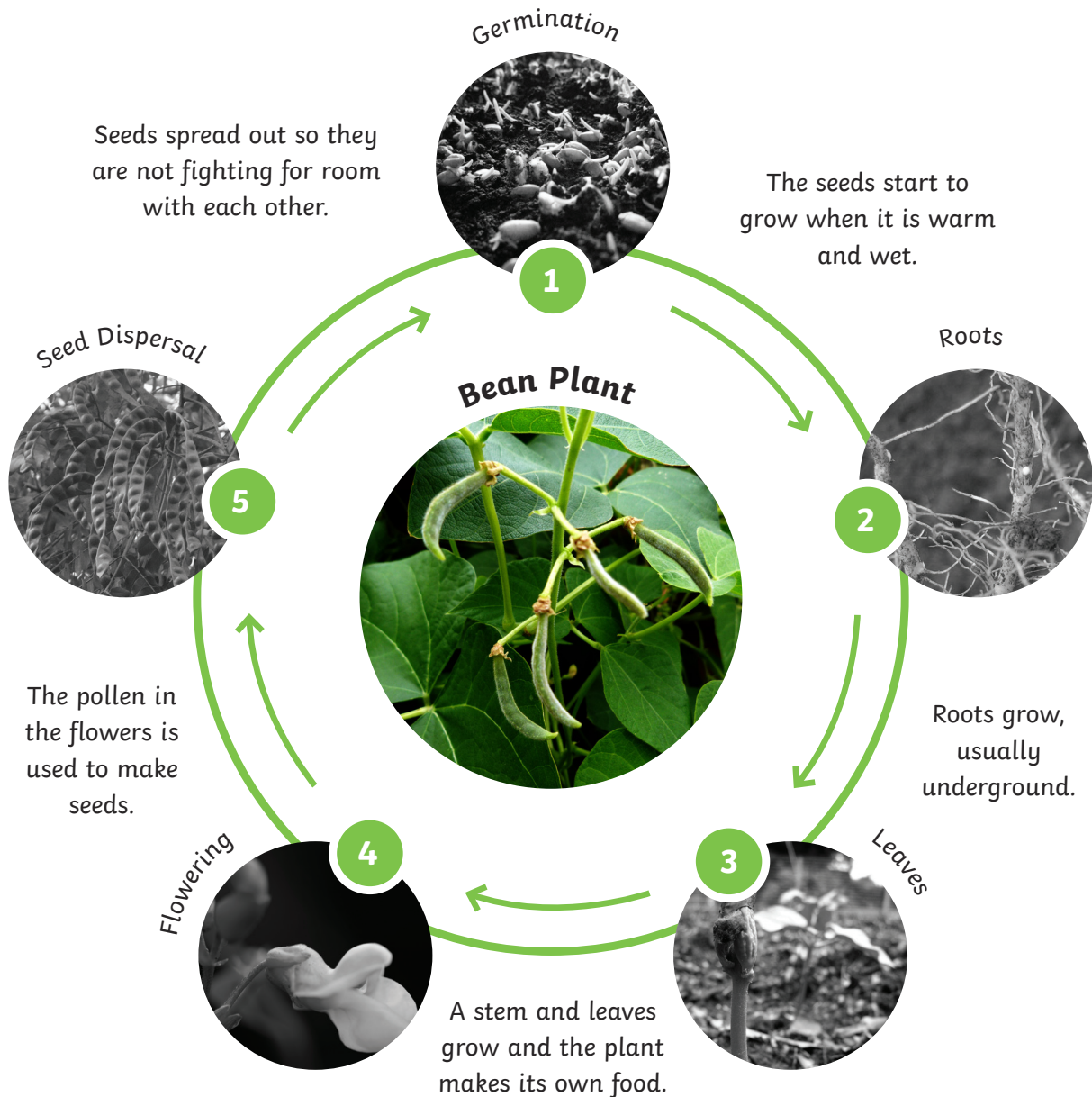
What happens to the plants and the insects?

Nature is very busy in spring and there are lots of changes. You can see the trees and bushes sprout new leaves again in spring and many plants flower because the air and soil are warmer and there are more daylight hours.

Many more insects can be spotted in spring, including butterflies and bees, which like the flowers.



The Flowering Plant Life Cycle



Easter

Easter is a celebration that happens in spring in the northern hemisphere. It started as a religious festival and now many people celebrate it with chocolate eggs, games or an Easter egg hunt. Easter Sunday always falls on a day between 22nd March and 25th April.

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Questions

1. When does spring end? Tick **one**.

- 20th March
 21st June
 21st March
 20th June

2. What do we do to the clocks during spring?

3. Which of the following is closest to the meaning of the word **migrant**? Tick **one**.

- travels to different countries
 sleeps during the winter
 sleeps during the spring
 grows during spring

4. Use the information in the text to match the sentences up.

The air and soil are warmer in spring so...	that there are more hours of daylight.
Another thing that helps plants grow is...	trees grow new leaves and plants flower.
Many insects can be spotted in spring, such as...	butterflies and bees.

5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are true or false.

Sentence	True	False
The first step of a plant life cycle is seed dispersal.		
The pollen in flowers is used to make seeds.		
Plants make their own food.		
Seeds start to grow when it is wet and cold.		

6. Between which two dates does Easter Sunday always fall?

7. The author has used sub-headings in the text. Why do you think the author has done this?

Answers

1. When does spring end? Tick **one**.

- 20th March
 21st June
 21st March
 20th June

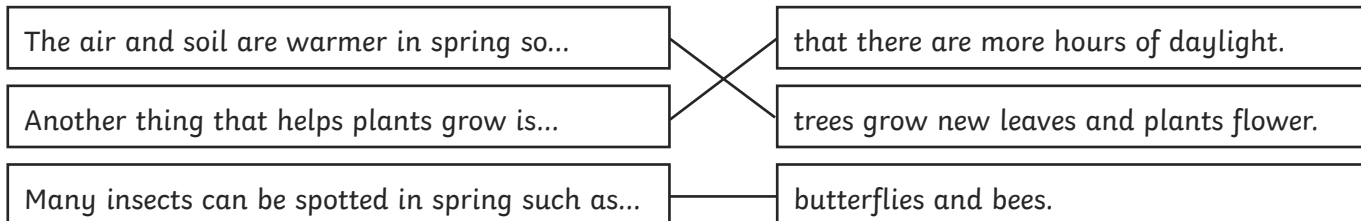
2. What do we do to the clocks during spring?

During spring, we move the clocks forward one hour.

3. Which of the following is closest to the meaning of the word **migrant**? Tick **one**.

- travels to different countries**
 sleeps during the winter
 sleeps during the spring
 grows during spring

4. Use the information in the text to match the sentences up.



5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are true or false.

Sentence	True	False
The first step of a plant life cycle is seed dispersal.		✓
The pollen in flowers is used to make seeds.	✓	
Plants make their own food.	✓	
Seeds start to grow when it is wet and cold.		✓

6. Between which two dates does Easter Sunday always fall?

Easter Sunday always falls on a day between 22nd March and 25th April.

7. The author has used sub-headings in the text. Why do you think the author has done this?

Accept any answer that refers to the text being easier to read, or that it enables the reader to find information, such as 'I think the author has used sub-headings in the text because it is a non-chronological report about spring. The sub-headings make it easier find information as the facts are split into different sections.'

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons and is the season that comes after winter and before summer. Spring starts on 20th March and ends on the 21st June. Spring is the season when we change our clocks forward one hour. In spring, the weather is often unpredictable and we have a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

What happens to the animals?

Animals such as hedgehogs, grass snakes, lizards, adders, frogs and toads come out of hibernation on the first warm spring days. Animals also start to reproduce - you might see frogspawn, which looks like jelly, in ponds.

Some animals move about a lot more in spring, such as squirrels. You can see squirrels scampering about, looking for food and climbing trees.

For many birdwatchers, spring is an exciting time of the year. This is because there are lots of migrant birds that come back to the UK in the spring. With the warmer weather, you can see swifts, cuckoos and nightingales.

What happens to the plants and the insects?

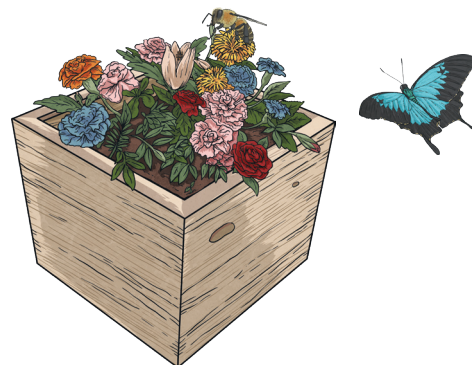
Nature is very busy in spring and there are lots of changes. You can see the trees and bushes sprout new leaves again and many plants flower because the air and soil are warmer and there are more daylight hours.

Many more insects can be spotted in spring, including butterflies and bees, which like the flowers. Insects play a crucial role in pollination (the creation of new seeds) and help plants to reproduce.

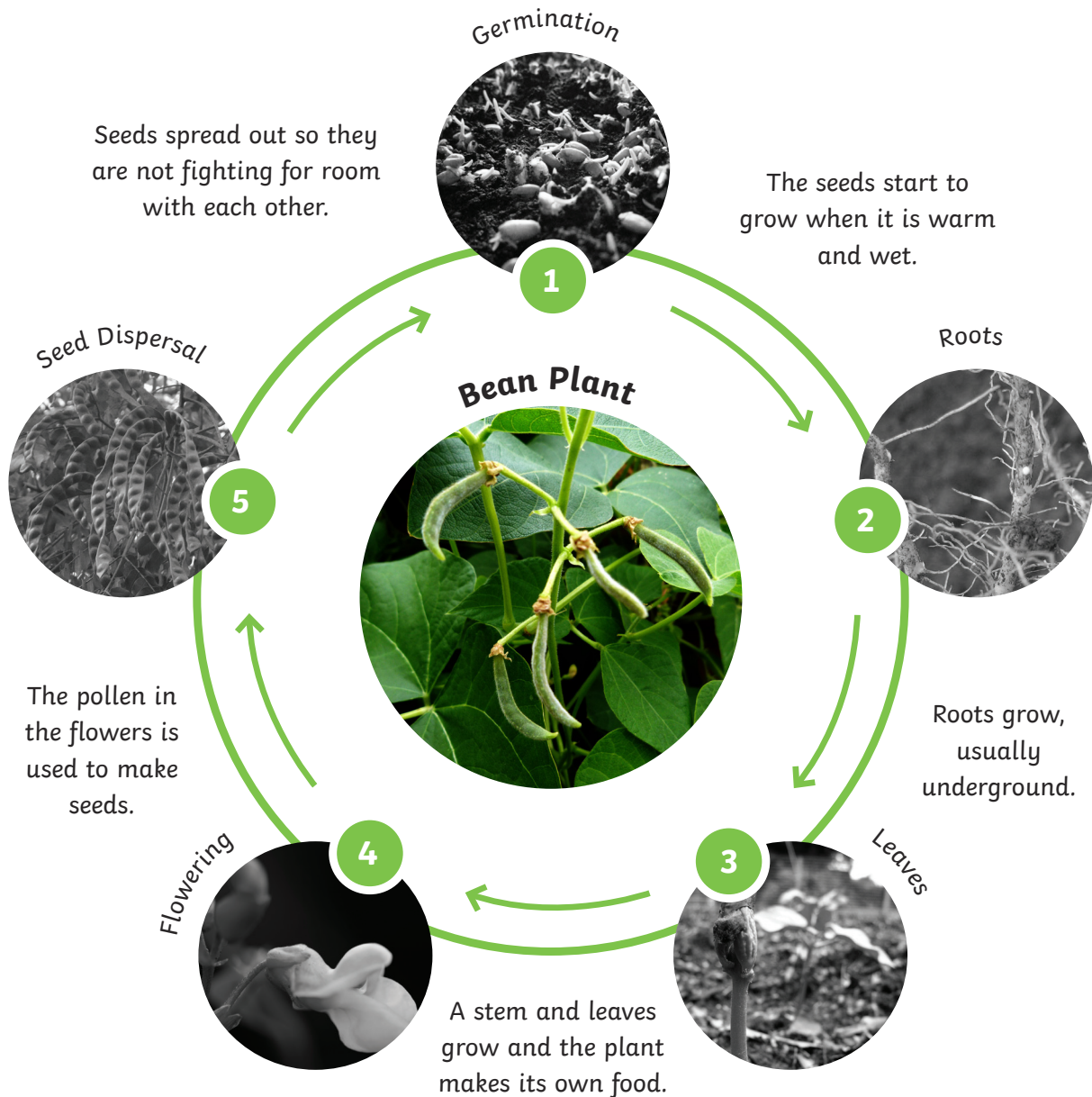
Did You Know...?

Hibernation isn't just a long sleep. During hibernation, creatures slow down their breathing and heart rates to save energy.

Bats can slow their heart rates down from 400 beats per minute, to 11!



The Flowering Plant Life Cycle



Easter

Easter is a celebration that happens in spring in the northern hemisphere. It started as a religious festival and now many people celebrate it with chocolate eggs, games or an Easter egg hunt. Easter Sunday always falls on a day between 22nd March and 25th April.

Photo courtesy of Jim Champion, llee_wu, solylunafamilia, OakleyOriginals, Crispin Semmens, dinesh Valke (@flickr.com) – granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Questions

1. Spring is the season that comes between? Tick **one**.

- autumn and winter
- summer and autumn
- winter and summer
- autumn and summer

2. Read the **What happens to the animals?** section.

Why do you think some birdwatchers find spring exciting? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

3. Name **two** things that animals do during hibernation.

4. Which migrating birds can you see in spring? Tick **one**.

- cuckoos
- swifts
- nightingales
- all of the above

5. Read the **What happens to the plants and insects?** section. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **important**.

6. Number the statements to order the events of a plant life cycle. The first one has been done for you.

	The seeds spread out.
1	The seeds grow when it is warm and wet.
	The plant sprouts roots.
	Pollen in flowers are used to make seeds.
	The plant grows leaves.

7. Easter Sunday falls on a day between 22nd March and...? Tick **one**.

- 25th March
- 22nd April
- 25th April
- 22nd March

8. In your own words, explain why plants and trees grow leaves and flowers in spring.

Answers

1. Spring is the season that comes between? Tick **one**.

- autumn and winter
 summer and autumn
 winter and summer
 autumn and summer

2. Read the **What happens to the animals?** section.

Why do you think some birdwatchers find spring exciting? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

Pupils own response, such as: 'I think some birdwatchers find spring exciting because lots of migrant birds come back from warmer countries in the spring. This would mean the birdwatchers can see birds that they wouldn't be able to see during the winter.'

3. Name **two** things that animals do during hibernation.

Accept any two of the following:

- **slow down their heart rate**
- **slow down their breathing**
- **save their energy**

4. Which migrating birds can you see in spring? Tick **one**.

- cuckoos
 swifts
 nightingales
 all of the above

5. Read the **What happens to the plants and insects?** section. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **important**.

crucial

6. Number the statements to order the events of a plant life cycle. The first one has been done for you.

5	The seeds spread out.
1	The seeds grow when it is warm and wet.
2	The plant sprouts roots.
4	Pollen in flowers are used to make seeds.
3	The plant grows leaves.

7. Easter Sunday falls on a day between 22nd March and...? Tick **one**.

- 25th March
- 22nd April
- 25th April**
- 22nd March

8. In your own words, explain why plants and trees grow leaves and flowers in spring.

Pupils own response, such as: 'Plants and trees grow more in spring because the air and soil are warmer and there are more daylight hours. Also, there are many insects that help pollinate plants so more seeds are created.'

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons and is the season that comes after winter and before summer. Spring starts on 20th March and ends on the 21st June. Spring is the season when we change our clocks forward one hour to British Summer Time. We do this so we are awake for more of daylight hours and it was originally started to save money on candles. In spring, the weather is often unpredictable and we have a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

What happens to the animals?

Animals such as hedgehogs, grass snakes, lizards, adders, frogs and toads come out of hibernation on the first warm spring days. Animals also start to reproduce - you might see frogspawn in ponds and calves and lambs in fields.

Some animals move about a lot more in spring, such as squirrels. You can see squirrels scampering about, looking for food and climbing trees.

For many birdwatchers, spring is an exciting time of the year. This is because there are lots of migrant birds that come back to the UK in the spring. With the warmer weather, you can see swifts, cuckoos and nightingales.

What happens to the plants and the insects?

Nature is very busy in spring and there is an abundance of changes. You can see the trees and bushes sprout new leaves again in spring and many plants flower because the air and soil are warmer and there are more daylight hours.

Many more insects can be spotted in spring, including butterflies and bees, which like the flowers. Insects play a crucial role in pollination (the creation of new seeds) and help plants to reproduce.

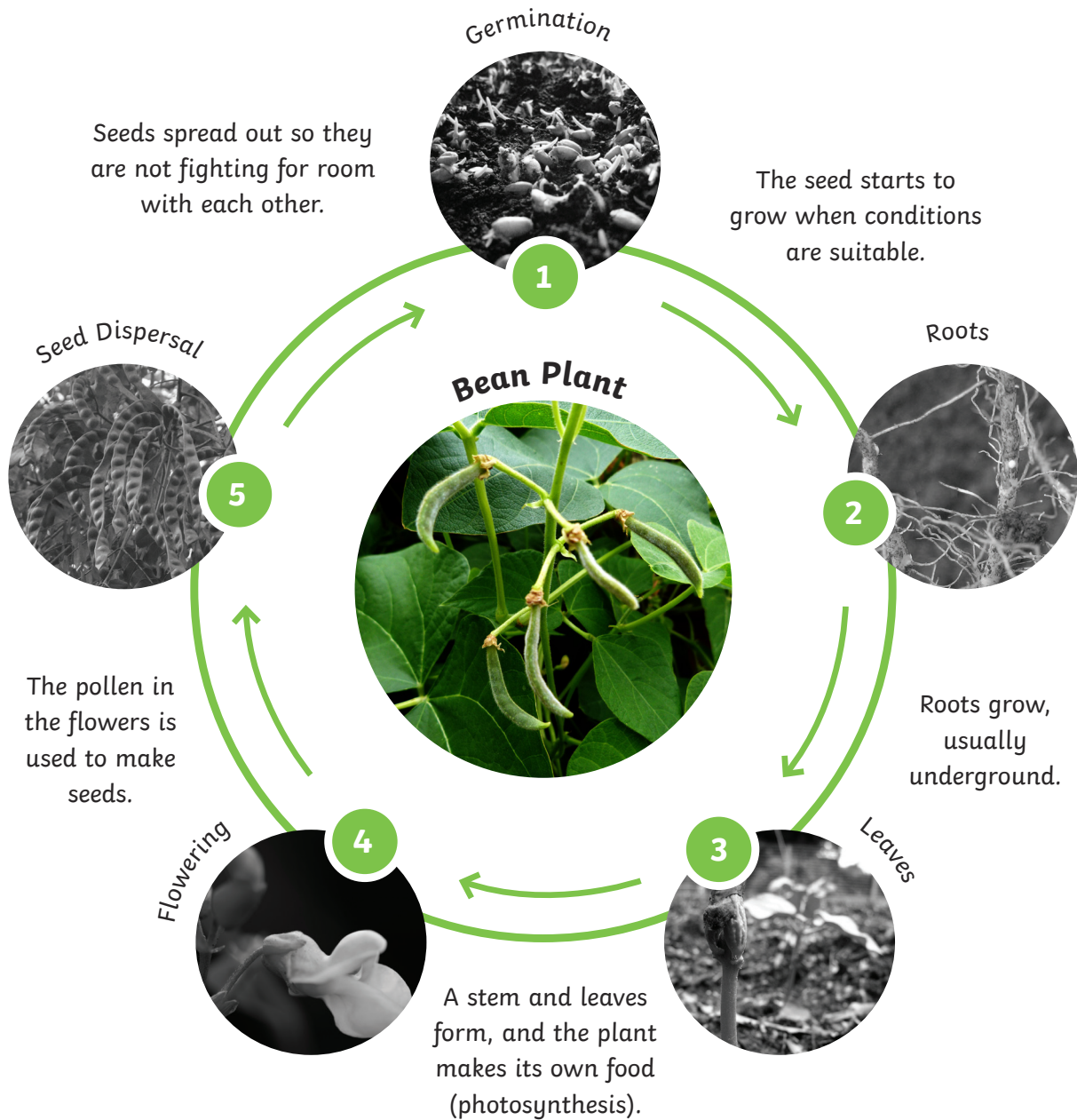
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Questions

1. Explain in your own words why the clocks move forwards one hour in spring.

2. How many beats per minute can a bat make their heart rate during hibernation? Tick **one**.

- 21
 11
 60
 20

3. List **three** animals mentioned in the text that come out of hibernation in spring.

4. Why do plants and trees grow more leaves and flowers in spring?

5. Explain in your own words why the author has used sub headings.

6. Read the **What Happens to the Plants and Insects** section.
What does the word **abundance** mean?

7. Fill in the table.

Pollen	
	The process in which seeds begin to grow.
Seed dispersal	
	These usually grow underground.

8. Why might someone like the season spring? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. Explain in your own words why the clocks move forwards one hour in spring.
Pupil's own response, such as: The clocks go forward one hour in springtime so we are awake more during the hours of daylight.
2. How many beats per minute can a bat make their heart rate during hibernation? Tick **one**.
 21
 11
 60
 20
3. List **three** animals mentioned in the text that come out of hibernation in spring.
Accept any three of the following:
 - **hedgehogs**
 - **adders**
 - **grass snakes**
 - **frogs**
 - **toads**
4. Why do plants and trees grow more leaves and flowers in spring?
Plants and trees grow more flowers in spring because the conditions are better. The air and soil are warmer and there are also lots of insects that pollinate the flowers and create new seeds.
5. Explain in your own words why the author has used sub headings.
Accept any answer that refers to the text being easier to read or that it enables the reader to find information, such as 'I think the author has used sub-headings in the text because it is a non-chronological report about spring. The sub-headings make it easier find information about spring as the facts are split into different sections.'
6. Read the **What Happens to the Plants and Insects** section.
What does the word **abundance** mean?
The word abundance means 'lots of'.
7. Fill in the table.

Pollen	This is used to make seeds.
Germination	The process in which seeds begin to grow.
Seed dispersal	When seeds are spread out so they have space to grow.
Roots	These usually grow underground.

8. Why might someone like the season spring? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils own response that refers to the text, such as: 'Someone might like spring because lots of flowers grow and there are more animals about. It is also when the weather starts to get a bit warmer so people might like to spend some more time outside enjoying the weather and the wildlife.'