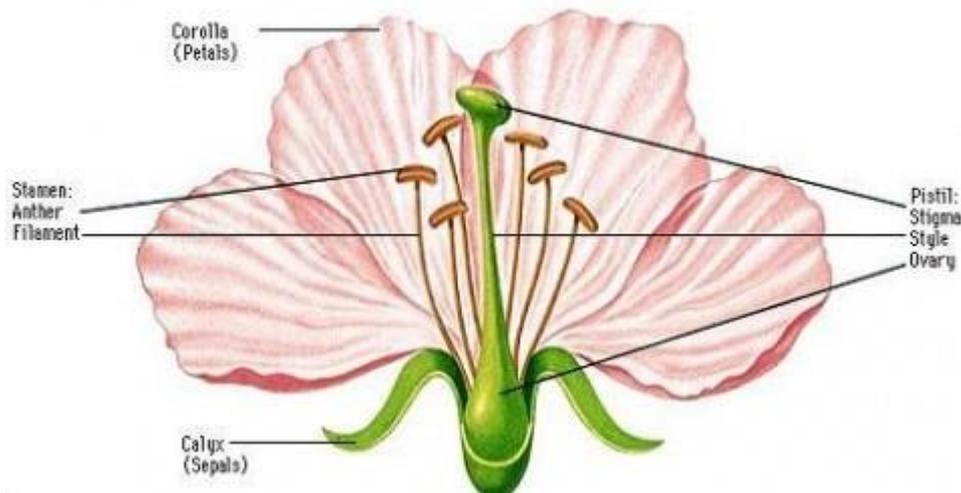


Flowers and honey



[Flower nifty. imperfect flowers reproduction. Many thanks.
<https://flowernifty.com/this-is-how-imperfect-flowers-reproduction-will-look-like-in-27-years-time-imperfect-flowers-reproduction/pictures-of-parts-of-flowers-clipart-imperfect-flowers-reproduction/>]

All plants [trees and flowers] grow from seeds.

Seeds are made when two different bits are brought together, and grow together. The same happens in animals – in animals a male [boy] bit and a female [girl] bit are brought together and grow together.

In flowers the seed is formed in the ovary – which you can see in the picture above – it is a little round green room at the bottom of a long green stalk.

One of the bits we have to get together [to make a seed, so we can have another flower] is already in the ovary.

The other bit is called pollen – this is powdery stuff which grows on the top of a part of the flower called the stamen. You can see 6 stamens in this picture.

OK, so the problem is to get some pollen from the top of the stamen over onto a part of the flower called the stigma. Once the pollen gets to the stigma it goes easily down the green tube [called the style] and into the ovary – where the seed is formed.

So, how does pollen get from the stamen to the stigma?

Well, it has to be carried there – it can be carried by the wind, a bird, a bee or a butterfly.

Do you like the smell of pizza, when you go past a pizza shop? To attract the bees and butterflies [and the birds] flowers make a very sweet drink which they like – it is called ‘nectar’. The insect comes along to get some nectar and bumps into the top of the stamen.

The top of the stamen is covered with pollen, and some sticks to the insect. Then, as the insect bumps into other parts of the flower, some pollen brushes onto the stigma. That was what we wanted! The pollen then goes down a tube into the ovary – and the seed begins to form.

The pollen may come from the stigma in its own flower, or be from another flower – it doesn’t matter – seeds are still made.

Now, this is important – what do bees do with nectar? – the answer is – they make honey.

But, why do bees make honey? Bees make honey because it is food they can eat during the winter when there are hardly any flowers or other food about. Honey is good food for bees because it has lots of sugar and energy.

So, humans get honey to eat for two main reasons, 1) flowers need bees to move pollen from one part of the flower to another [so the flowers can make seeds and there will be some flowers next year], and 2) bees need food for the winter so they collect nectar to make honey [food they can store].



There is another problem [for bees]. Bees don't have glass bowls to store their honey...



...honey is very runny, and if you didn't have somewhere to put it, everything would get very sticky, very quickly.

So, they make these little cupboards to put their honey in – these are made out of wax and can be used more than once.

Show your parents
Chapter 14.



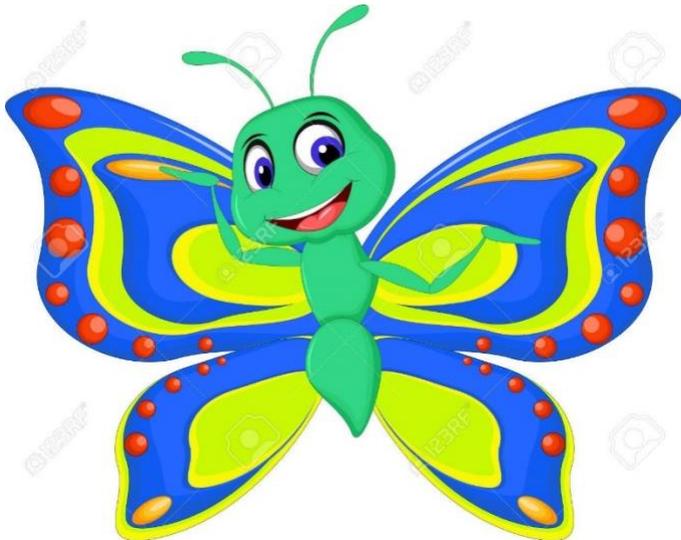
[C C Credits: _Pauls. Creative commons. Many thanks.
<https://harishanker.net/2009/08/daily-blunder-bee-gees/>]



What is this butterfly doing?
It is having a nice drink of nectar!

Will it then go and make some lovely honey?
No, butterflies don't make honey!

The world is like that – some people drink nectar but don't make any honey!



You can tell that this butterfly has just had a nice drink of nectar – but, he's not going to make any honey.

Q: Why did the cookie go to the hospital?

A: Because he felt crummy.

Q: Why was the baby strawberry crying?

A: Because her mum and dad were in a jam.

Q: What did the little corn say to the mama corn?

A: Where is pop corn?

Q: What is worse than raining cats and dogs?

A: Hailing taxis!



Happy Birthday!

[Well, we had a 1 in 365 chance. It was worth a try.]