How Pollen Gets Around

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A flower's job is to make seeds, and for that it needs pollen, a fine powder made in the anthers of its stamens. The pollen has to reach the stigma, the top of the pistil. This is called pollination.

A flower cannot move, so many need helpers. Showy, sweet-smelling flowers draw bees, butterflies, moths and other insects, and birds and bats carry pollen too. Some petals have markings that show an insect where to land. Flowers that bees visit can even reflect light that insects see and people cannot.

Grasses do not need helpers, because the wind carries their pollen. They spend little on beauty: their flowers usually have no petals at all. They make huge amounts of pollen for the wind to blow away.

After pollination, seeds grow inside the ovary, which becomes the fruit.

1. **What is pollination?**

2. **Name two kinds of animals that carry pollen.**

3. **Why do grass flowers not need bright petals?**

4. **Why do you think many flowers that need insects smell sweet?**

Answer key

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1. What is pollination?
   Pollen reaching the stigma, the top of the pistil.

2. Name two kinds of animals that carry pollen.
   Any two of: bees, butterflies, moths or other insects, birds, bats.

3. Why do grass flowers not need bright petals?
   The wind carries their pollen, so they do not need to draw insects.

4. Why do you think many flowers that need insects smell sweet?
   Sample answer: the smell draws insects to the flower, and they carry its pollen.