

SCIENCE learning springboards



Pollination methods

Explore the pollination strategies of plants

Aim: Pupils use the Pappus Plant fact sheets to identify the pollination methods of these common plants.

- Use this information to group plants by method of pollination. Identify similarities and differences between these plants and the strategies used.
- Link this to a discussion about which foods we eat are pollinated by insects and which would NOT be available to us if our pollinating insects fail to thrive around the world. (In simple terms - No chocolate, vanilla ice-cream, fruit, etc and our diet would largely be based on bread and pasta!)
- As an extension activity, use the Fact sheets to identify seed dispersal methods too.
- Write simple fact sheets for a selection of plant species that are found in the school grounds.
- Make a presentation in an assembly or to a younger class.

Pollination methods – teachers' summary:

- Pupils can find this information in the *Pappus* Plant ID sheets
- Ash - wind
- Blackberry - insects
- Conifers – wind
- Dandelion – cross-pollinated by insects, wind and self-pollinated
- Dog Rose – Insects
- Elder – insects, especially flies
- Grasses – wind and vivipary
- Hazel - wind
- Horse chestnut – wind and insects, managed by a 'traffic light' strategy which is described on the *Pappus* Plant ID sheet
- Ivy – insects
- Lime – insects and wind
- Nettle – wind
- Oak - wind and insects
- Willow – insects, wind



Resources:

Local trees and plants
Pappus Plant ID Sheets

More springboards:

- Science Learning Springboards: Pollination dance; Seed dispersal
- Visit the Polli:Nation project website for more information and activities related to pollination, plants and insects



Pollination



Polli:Nation

Key vocabulary:

Vivipary, anthers, dioecious, nectar, petals, stigma

Success criteria:

- ✓ I understand and can explain how pollination occurs in plants using scientific language and vocabulary
- ✓ I can identify the insects that are necessary for pollination

