

How Pollen Travels

Honeycomb Bridge with Buzzling

Learning target

Trace a pollen journey using a clear model.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Contact with flower parts; transfer within or between flowers; repeated visits

Open Honeycomb Bridge - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



How Pollen Travels - key ideas

1. The first clues

Nectar is a sugary liquid; pollen consists of grains involved in plant reproduction. They have different roles.

2. How the clues connect

Pollen can move within one flower or between compatible flowers. A carrier may pick it up by contact and later deposit it on a stigma.

3. Our evidence record

Our sequence is contact anther, carry pollen, contact compatible stigma. Repeated visits create opportunities, but do not guarantee every flower produces seeds.

Keep the science accurate

Keep anther/stigma terms supported with diagrams. Pollination, fertilization and seed dispersal are different; advanced reproductive cell biology is optional.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/2-Is2-ecosystems-interactions-energy-and-dynamics>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which is a sugary liquid?

Expected answer: Nectar

Reasoning: Nectar is a sugary liquid; pollen consists of grains involved in plant reproduction. They have different roles.

2. Which sequence transfers pollen?

Expected answer: Anther contact, transport, stigma contact

Reasoning: Our sequence is contact anther, carry pollen, contact compatible stigma. Repeated visits create opportunities, but do not guarantee every flower produces seeds.

3. Must pollen always move to a different plant?

Expected answer: No, pathways vary

Reasoning: Nectar is a sugary liquid; pollen consists of grains involved in plant reproduction. They have different roles.

4. Does every flower visit guarantee seeds?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Our sequence is contact anther, carry pollen, contact compatible stigma. Repeated visits create opportunities, but do not guarantee every flower produces seeds.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.