

Spring

Spring is the season that is between winter and summer. It begins in March and ends in June. As the season goes on, there are more hours of daylight and fewer hours of darkness. The weather gets warmer but can be unpredictable so it is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

Spring is the season when people move their clocks forward one hour. This happens during March and the time after the clocks have moved forward is actually called 'British summer time'.



Signs of Spring



Spring is a season of many changes as the natural world begins to awaken after the cold winter months come to an end.

Animals

Many animals emerge from hibernation during spring. Many animals, such as hedgehogs, bats, dormice, grass snakes, frogs and toads, hibernate during the winter. Hibernation is not just a long sleep. It is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their breathing and heart rate to save energy.



Did You Know...?

A hedgehog's heart rate can slow from approximately 190 beats per minute to just 20 beats per minute!

Animals become more active during spring as more food becomes available for them to eat. This is also the time of year when many species start to reproduce.

Birds begin to build their nests ready to lay their eggs in and frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.



Fun Fact

How can you tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn? Frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.

Spring is an exciting time of the year for many birdwatchers as this is when some **migrant birds** return to the UK. There are many species of birds that migrate to the UK during spring. You might see Swallows, Swifts or House Martins. These birds migrate from Africa.



Swallow



Swift

Did You Know...?

The journey from Africa is over 5000 miles long. Swallows can fly up to 200 miles a day but it still takes them more than a month to get here!

Plants

Spring is a time of new growth. **Dormant** plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow as the soil warms up and the first flowers of the year begin to bloom. Snowdrops are one of the earliest flowers that you might see.

Did You Know...?

Many spring flowers grow from bulbs, including daffodils, bluebells and tulips.

Insects

There is an increase in the number of insects in spring too. During the winter months, they become inactive and their growth and development are paused. This is called diapause. They emerge from this state as the temperature increases in spring.

Insects are important as they play a crucial role in pollination. They help to transfer pollen from one flowering plant to another. Eventually, a new seed is formed.



bluebells



tulips



cowslip



snowdrops



crocuses



Glossary

dormant: Not active or growing but able to become active or grow in the future.

migrant bird: A bird that moves from one place to another according to the season.



Questions

1. Which of these animals hibernate during the winter? Tick **three**.

- ☐ bats
- ☐ hedgehogs
- ☐ foxes
- ☐ toads

2. Draw **three** lines and match each sentence to make the facts correct.

Spring is between...

June.

Spring begins in...

winter and summer.

Spring ends in...

March.

3. Fill in the missing words.

_____ is not just a long sleep. It is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their _____ and heart rate to save energy.

4. Look at the section called **Animals**.

Find and copy one word which means 'to produce young'.

5. What do birds do to get ready to lay their eggs?

6. Explain why you think some animals hibernate during the winter.

7. Describe spring in **two** words. Give reasons for your answers.

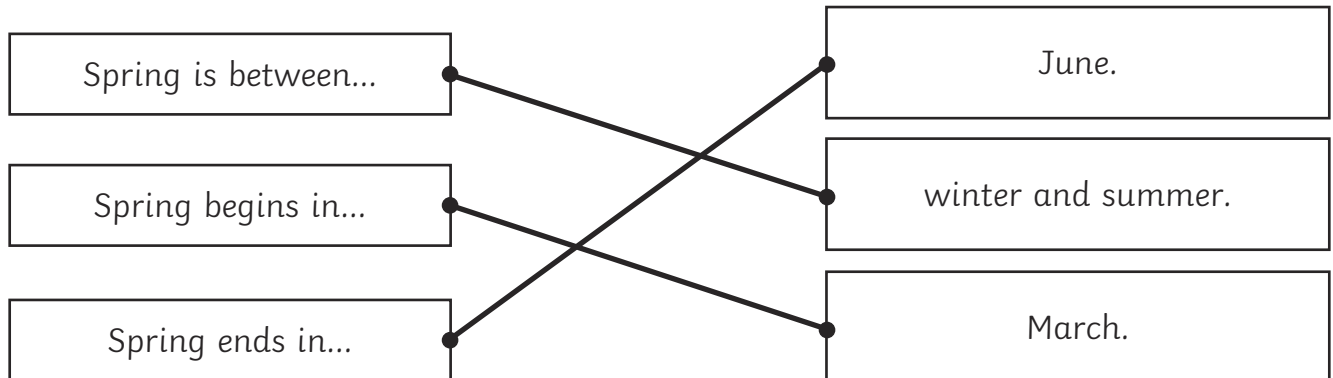
8. What do you think might happen if the temperature stayed below zero degrees in spring?
Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which of these animals hibernate during the winter? Tick **three**.

- ☒ **bats**
- ☒ **hedgehogs**
- ☐ foxes
- ☒ **toads**

2. Draw **three** lines and match each sentence to make the facts correct.



3. Fill in the missing words.

Hibernation is not just a long sleep. It is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their **breathing** and heart rate to save energy.

4. Look at the section called **Animals**.

Find and copy one word which means 'to produce young'.

reproduce

5. What do birds do to get ready to lay their eggs?

Birds build nests to get ready to lay their eggs.

6. Explain why you think some animals hibernate during the winter.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Winter is a cold season and there is not as much food for animals to eat. I think some animals hibernate so that they can survive the cold temperatures and lack of food.

7. Describe spring in **two** words. Give reasons for your answers.

Pupils' own responses, such as:

Colourful - Spring is colourful because plants grow and flowers begin to bloom.

Incredible - Spring is an incredible season because of all the amazing things that happen in nature.

8. What do you think might happen if the temperature stayed below zero degrees in spring?
Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: If the temperature stayed below zero, I think the hibernating animals would not wake up and the trees and plants would stay dormant. I think that some plants and animals would not survive if spring was too cold.

Spring

Spring is the season that is between winter and summer - it's from March until June. As the season goes on, there are more hours of daylight and fewer hours of darkness. The weather improves as temperatures begin to increase but it can be unpredictable so it is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

Spring is the season when people move their clocks forward one hour. This happens during March and the time after the clocks have moved forward is actually called 'British summer time'.



Signs of Spring



Spring is a season of many changes as the natural world begins to awaken after the cold winter months come to an end.

Animals

Many animals emerge from hibernation during spring. Animals, such as hedgehogs, bats, dormice, grass snakes, frogs and toads, hibernate during the winter. Hibernation is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their **metabolism**, breathing and heart rate to save energy.



A hedgehog's heart rate can slow from approximately 190 beats per minute to just 20 beats per minute.

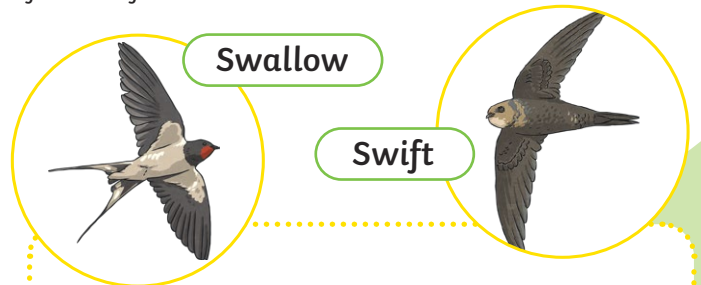
Animals become more active during spring as more food becomes available for them to eat. This is also the time of year when many species start to reproduce. Birds begin to build their nests ready to lay their eggs in and frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

Fun Fact



How can you tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn? Frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.

Spring is an exciting time of the year for many birdwatchers as this is when some **migrant birds** return to the UK. There are many species of birds that migrate to the UK during spring. You might see Swallows, Swifts or House Martins. These birds migrate from Africa.



Swallow

Swift

Did You Know...?

The journey from Africa is over 5000 miles long. Swallows can fly up to 200 miles a day but it still takes them more than a month to get here!

Plants

Spring is a time of new growth. **Dormant** plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow as the soil conditions warm up and become more suitable. The first flowers of the year begin to bloom. Snowdrops are one of the earliest flowers to bloom - often in February before spring has even begun.



bluebells



cowslip



snowdrops



tulips



crocuses

Did You Know...?

Many spring flowers grow from bulbs, including daffodils, bluebells and tulips.



Insects

There is an increase in the number of insects in spring too. During the winter months, they become inactive and their growth and development are paused. This is called diapause. They emerge from this state as the temperature increases in spring.

Insects are important as many play a significant role in pollination. This is a crucial stage in the life cycle of a flowering plant. It is when pollen is moved from one flowering plant to another. Eventually, a new seed is formed.



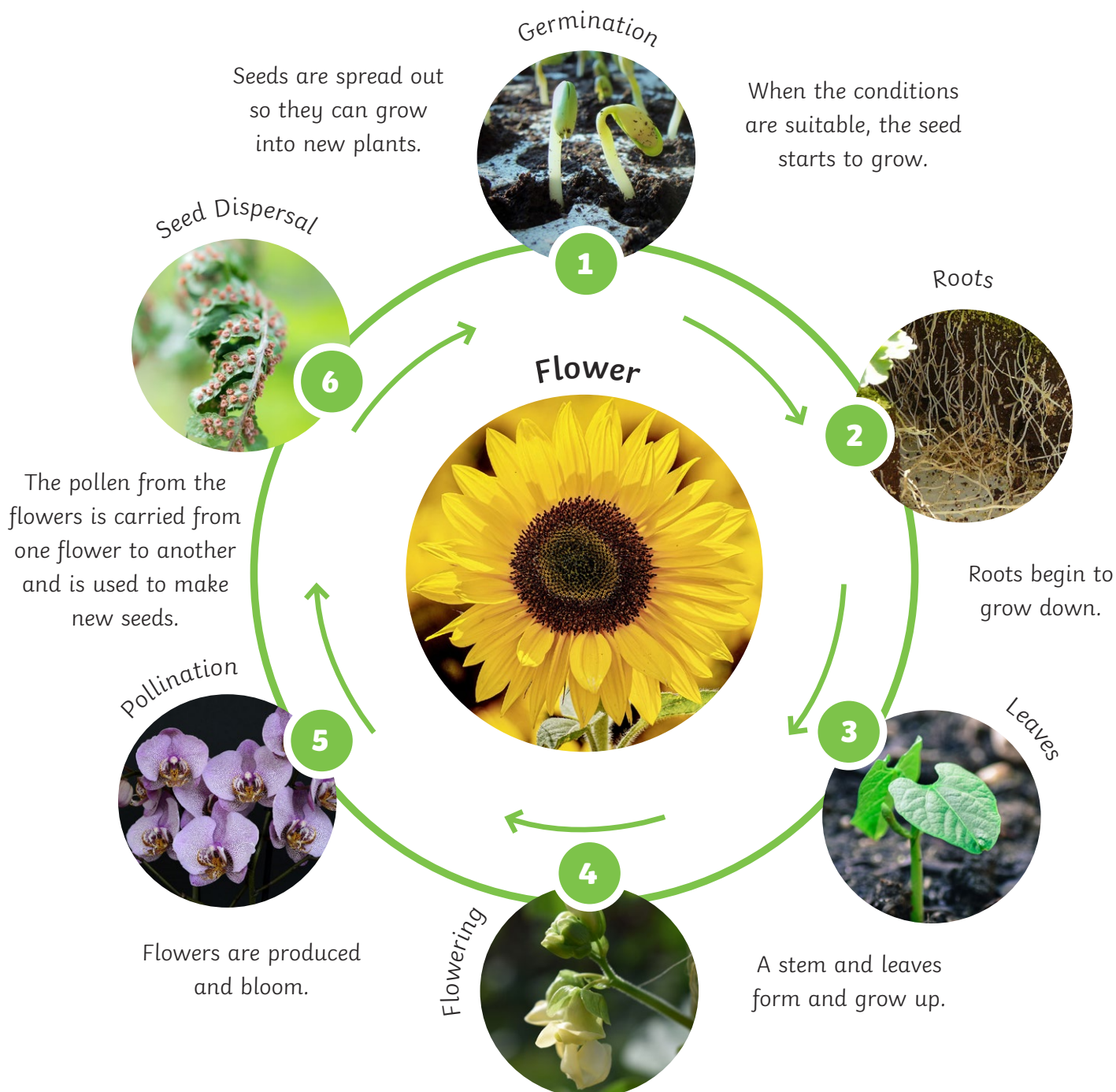
Glossary

dormant: Not active or growing but able to become active or grow in the future.

metabolism: The chemical process in living things that turns food into energy and materials for growth.

migrant bird: A bird that moves from one place to another according to the season.

The Life Cycle of a Flowering Plant



Questions

1. Which of the following are species of flowers that grow in spring? Tick **three**.

- ☐ tulips
- ☐ sunflowers
- ☐ daffodils
- ☐ bluebells

2. Draw **four** lines to complete the sentences.

Spring is a time of new...	bloom.
The first flowers of the year begin to...	bulbs.
Many spring flowers grow from...	shoots.
Dormant plants and trees begin to sprout new buds and...	growth.

3. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word which means that something 'cannot be predicted because it changes a lot'.

4. Look at the sub-heading **Animals**.

List **two** animals that spawn in ponds during spring.

- _____
- _____

5. In which section of the text would you find information about hibernation?

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

7. What do you think might happen if the temperature stayed below zero degrees in spring?
Explain your answer?

8. Compare animals that hibernate with insects in a state of diapause. How are they similar?

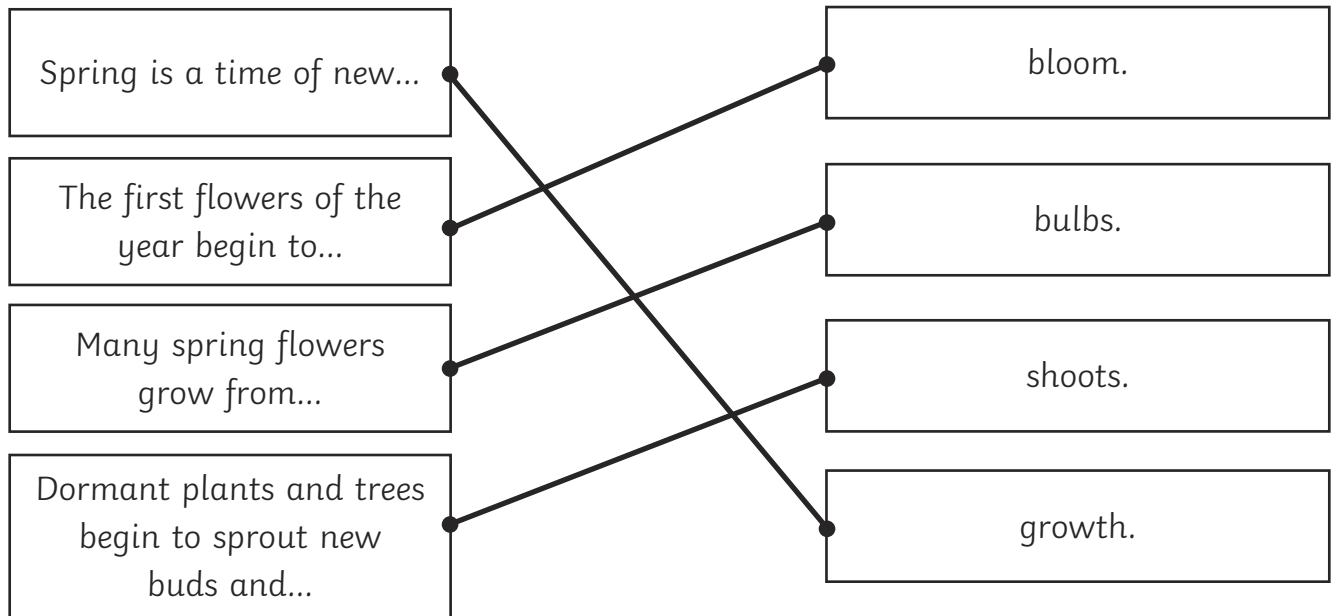
9. Summarise what you have learnt about spring using 30 words or fewer.

Answers

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- ☒ tulips
- ☐ sunflowers
- ☒ daffodils
- ☒ bluebells

2. Draw **four** lines to complete the sentences.



3. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word which means that something 'cannot be predicted because it changes a lot'.

unpredictable

4. Look at the sub-heading **Animals**.

List **two** animals that spawn in ponds during spring.

- frogs
- toads

5. In which section of the text would you find information about hibernation?

The section of the text where you would find information about hibernation is Animals.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author has used sub-headings in the text because it is non-fiction. Using sub-headings makes it easier to find information as it is split into sections that can be read in any order.

7. What do you think might happen if the temperature below zero degrees in spring?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: If the temperature stayed below zero, I think the hibernating animals would not wake up and the trees and plants would stay dormant. I think that some plants and animals would not survive if spring was too cold.

8. Compare animals that hibernate with insects in a state of diapause. How are they similar?

Pupils' own responses, such as: In both the state of diapause and during hibernation, the creatures are dormant and inactive during the cold winter months.

9. Summarise what you have learnt about spring using 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Spring is a busy season for the natural world. As the temperature increases, animals and plants become more active and they begin to grow and to reproduce.

Spring

Spring is the season that is between winter and summer - it's from March until June. As the season progresses, the daylight hours increase and there are fewer hours of darkness. The weather improves as temperatures begin to rise but it can be unpredictable so it is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

Spring is the season when people move their clocks forward one hour. This happens during March and the time after the clocks have moved forward is actually called 'British summer time'.



Signs of Spring

Spring is a season with a multitude of changes as the natural world begins to awaken after the cold winter months come to an end.



Animals

Many animals emerge from hibernation during spring. Animals, such as hedgehogs, bats, dormice, grass snakes, frogs and toads, hibernate during the winter. Hibernation is a state like a deep sleep when animals slow down their metabolism (the chemical process in living things that turns food into energy and materials for growth) and their breathing and heart rate to save energy.



A hedgehog's heart rate can slow from approximately 190 beats per minute to just 20 beats per minute!

Animals become more active during spring as more food becomes available for them to eat. This is also the time of year when many species start to reproduce. Birds begin to build their nests ready to lay their eggs in and frogs and toads begin to spawn in ponds.

Fun Fact



How can you tell the difference between frogspawn and toadspawn? Frogspawn is laid in clumps but toadspawn is laid in long chains.

Spring is an exciting time of the year for many birdwatchers as this is when some migrant birds, the birds that move from one place to another according to the season, return to the UK. There are many species of birds that migrate to the UK during spring. You might see Swallows, Swifts or House Martins.

These particular birds migrate from Africa. Their migratory route is over 5000 miles long and can be a perilous journey as they may have to cross deserts or seas. Swallows are able to fly up to an incredible 200 miles a day but the total distance they must travel means it still takes them more than a month to get here!

Swallow



Swift



Plants

Spring is a time of new growth. Dormant plants and trees - that have not been active or growing during the winter - begin to sprout new buds and shoots. New seedlings begin to grow as the soil conditions warm up and become more suitable. The first flowers of the year begin to bloom. Snowdrops are one of the earliest flowers to bloom - often in February before spring has even begun. Many spring flowers grow from bulbs, including daffodils, bluebells and tulips.



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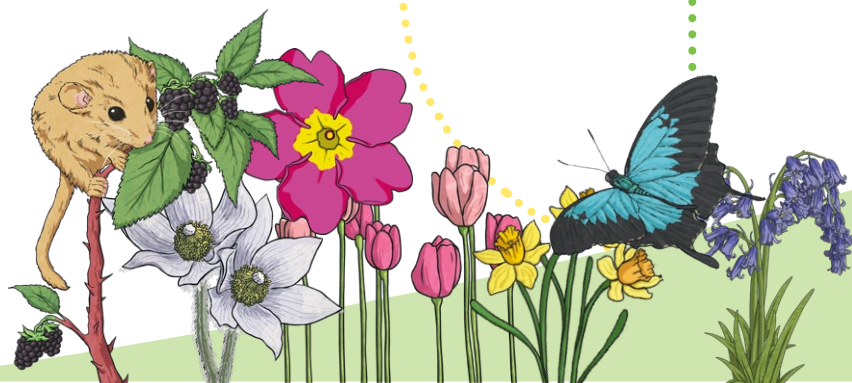
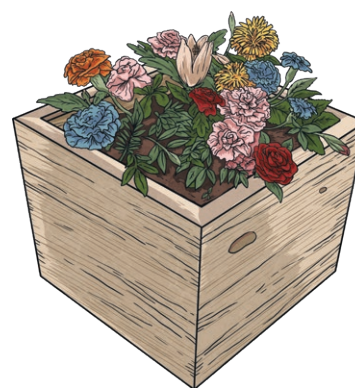


crocuses

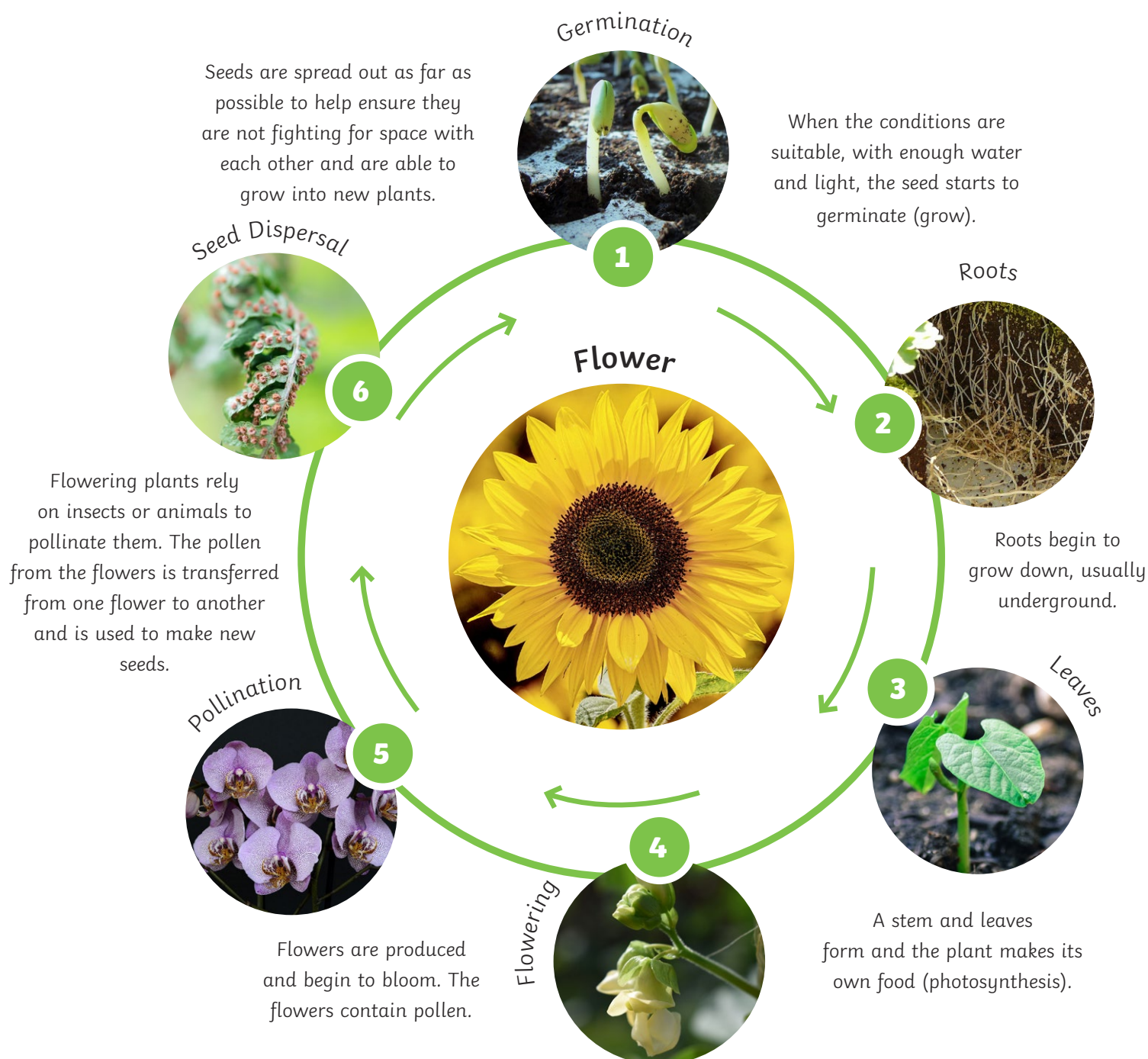
Insects

Insect numbers also greatly increase in spring. During the winter months, they become inactive and their growth and development are paused in a state called diapause. They emerge from this state as the temperature begins to rise in spring.

Many insects are important pollinators that play a significant role in the pollination of flowering plants. This is a crucial stage in a plant's life cycle. It is when pollen is moved from one flowering plant to another. Eventually, a new seed is formed.



The Life Cycle of a Flowering Plant



Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** a species of flower that grows in spring? Tick one

- ☐ bluebell
- ☐ tulip
- ☐ daffodil
- ☐ sunflower

2. **Their migratory route is over 5000 miles long and can be a perilous journey...**

Which of the following words is an antonym of 'perilous'? Tick one.

- ☐ dangerous
- ☐ hazardous
- ☐ safe
- ☐ risky

3. Fill in the missing words.

_____ plants and trees - that have not been _____
or growing during the winter - begin to sprout new buds and shoots.

4. In which section of the text would you find information about diapause?

5. Name **three** things that animals do to save energy during hibernation.

- _____
- _____
- _____

6. **The weather improves as temperatures begin to rise but it can be unpredictable so it is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.**

What does 'unpredictable' mean in this sentence?

7. Explain why you think that the author chose to include the life cycle of a flowering plant.

8. What do you think might happen to plants and trees if the temperature stayed below zero degrees in spring? Explain your answer.

9. Why do you think that some animals hibernate during the winter months? Explain your answer.

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Seed dispersal is when seeds begin to grow.		
Pollination is when pollen is transferred from one flower to another and is used to make new seeds.		
Photosynthesis is when the flowers on a plant begin to bloom.		
Roots usually grow down into the ground.		
Germination is when a seed begins to grow (germinate).		

1. Which of the following is **not** a species of flower that grows in spring? Tick one

- ☐ bluebell
- ☐ tulip
- ☐ daffodil
- ☒ sunflower

2. **Their migratory route is over 5000 miles long and can be a perilous journey...**

Which of the following words is an antonym of 'perilous'? Tick one.

- ☐ dangerous
- ☐ hazardous
- ☒ safe
- ☐ risky

3. Fill in the missing words.

Dormant plants and trees - that have not been **active** or growing during the winter - begin to sprout new buds and shoots.

4. In which section of the text would you find information about diapause?

The section of the text where you would find information about diapause is Insects.

5. Name **three** things that animals do to save energy during hibernation.

- **slow their metabolism**
- **slow their heart rate**
- **slow their breathing**

6. **The weather improves as temperatures begin to rise but it can be unpredictable so it is often a mixture of sunny and rainy days.**

What does 'unpredictable' mean in this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Unpredictable' in this sentence means that the weather can't be predicted because it is changing all the time in spring.

7. Explain why you think that the author chose to include the life cycle of a flowering plant.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include the life cycle of a flowering plant because spring is an important time for plants. Spring is when they cease being dormant and begin to grow and reproduce again.

8. What do you think might happen to the plants and trees if the temperature stayed below zero degrees in spring? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Plants and trees begin to grow and reproduce as the temperature rises in spring. If it stayed cold, they might remain in a dormant state and possibly wouldn't survive.

9. Why do you think that some animals hibernate during the winter months?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that some animals hibernate during the winter months in order to avoid the more extreme weather conditions and the time when food is scarce. Therefore, hibernating gives them a greater chance of survival.

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Seed dispersal is when seeds begin to grow.		✓
Pollination is when pollen is transferred from one flower to another and is used to make new seeds.	✓	
Photosynthesis is when the flowers on a plant begin to bloom.		✓
Roots usually grow down into the ground.	✓	
Germination is when a seed begins to grow (germinate).	✓	