

Scene 1

Upset Pupil: I'll never understand this science about plant life cycles.

Pupil 1 : Wish we could help. Have you ever wondered why fruit plants flower?

(Looks uninterested whilst slowly staring at hands etc)

Pupil 2 : I have – especially as that's what we're learning about in science but imagine if flowers could talk – that would be useful!

Pupil 3: 'Yeah' and the insects – I wonder what they'd think of us? Hang on - these flowers they're talking! Let's listen in! (points knowingly to flowers)

Scene 2

Flower 1 : I'm such a beautiful flower.

Flower 2 : So am I – just prettier than you!!

Flower 3: No you're not! You need to look at your reflection in the pond! Your petals are all wonky.
(Flower checks itself)

Flower 4 : And I'm a flower too – but you must admit I AM the prettiest - you look up to me don't you!

Pupil 4: Well those flowers seem a bit over-sensitive. I wish they would Bee Hive – Get it BEEEHAVE? (said slowly)

Flower 5: Erm... Actually... This is a **scientific play – you know** serious, educational. We need to reproduce. We have to attract a bee. End of story! That's how it's done.

Pupil 1 : Wait a minute. What do you actually need the bees to do then? I don't understand?

Pupil 2 : Hey – Yeh, I think I heard a third of the world's food comes from pollinated plants. **Is it the bees that do it?**

Pupil 3 : NO WAY! SO ALL THE FRUIT IN THE WORLD WAS ONCE A FLOWER?

Flower 3: YUP!

Pupil 1: So bees make you grow?

Flower 5: Not exactly grow, they help us to become fruit or to make seeds.

Pupil 4: So you reproduce then.

Flower 6 : As you can see - bees help us –we don't move about much. We'd struggle without bees. We need to be pollinated.

Flower 7 : When pollen grains meet a certain part of the flower – POW! (Stamps foot) – fertilization happens - and we make fruits and seeds. Humans love that stuff.

Flower 8 : True - but it's a little more complicated than that. First of all, my wonderful and colourful petals attract the bee.

Flower 1: Yes well my scent (my wonderful smell) beats your petals.

Pupil 5: ATCHOO...Sorry I have hay fever.

Flower 2: (sniffs – wafts hand over face) Actually you do smell nice.

Flower 3: Ha! I have sweet nectar – lots more than you two.

(Other flowers fold arms and grumble). You would say that!

Pupil 1: I don't get it? You **give away nectar**? Why? That's very kind of you.

Flower 4: Well it's a kind of swap – Bees get nectar and move the pollen from other similar flowers whilst they collect nectar. Everyone wins.

Bee: Coming through – busy busy day – need nectar. Nectar for the hive. The Queen demands it.

'For so work the honey bees, creatures that by rule in nature teach the act of order to the peopled kingdom.'

Pupil 2: Cool Shakespeare quote!

Bee: Thanks – by the way - don't use pesticides they hurt us!

Pupil 3: Sorry Bee – we wont.

So flower. What's going on with the pollen? I don't really understand that part...

Flower 4: Easy – Look see this tube – it's my style. (Points to diagram of flower)

Pupil 4: Yeh it suits you...very stylish.

Flower 2: NO ITS CALLED A 'STYLE' – THE TUBE IS CALLED A 'STYLE' IT'S PART OF THE FLOWER THAT LEADS TO THE OVARY.

Pupil 5: Okay calm down and keep your petals on!

Flower 5: So pollen grains (from a flower's anther) go in (Thanks to the Bees' long tongue called a proboscis) and fertilize us. It's like magic.

Flower 2:– This bit – the 'OVARY' – grows into a fruits with seeds or just seed pods. Petals drop off and that's the next generation – Exciting thought really.

Flower 3: Then we - er - sort of shrivel up and stop growing.

Pupil 1: Like Mr Poli? (Who looks angrily at the pupil)

Flower 4: Er no – that's rude – no it's just the end of the life-cycle.

Flower 5: - In time fruit trees lose their leaves and apples ripen.

Pupil 8: Cool life-cycle.

Pupil 9: Wow – that's amazing. So let's see now. The bee comes looking for the nectar?

Pupil 10: Then it leaves pollen grains in the style and the makes the round thingy in to seeds and fruit.

Pupil 11: The ovule – Yes – Pollination leads to fertilization and this makes seeds.

Pupil 12: I still don't see what all the fuss is about (eats apple). Hey but this apple is delicious.

Pupil 13: Oh dear...they really didn't understand! (Head in hands)

