

How Do Plants Reproduce?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

germination [jer•muh•AY•shuhn] the process of a seed sprouting

Germination and *grow* begin with the same letter. *Germination* occurs when the tiny plant in a seed starts to grow.

maturity [muh•TYOOR•uh•tee] the point at which a plant grows to its full size

When people say, “Don’t be a baby!” they mean act more mature, or grown-up. When someone or something reaches *maturity*, it is fully grown.

fertilization [fer•tuhl•uh•ZA•shuhn] the process of a sperm and an egg cell joining together

Fertilization and fertilizer are in the same word family. A fertilizer is something added to soil to help plants grow. When *fertilization* takes places, a new plant may grow within a seed.

pollination [pah•uh•NAY•shuhn] the process of pollen moving from a male plant part to a female plant part

Pollination and pollen are in the same word family. Pollen contains sperm, the male sex cell. *Pollination* occurs when pollen gets to where it needs to go—the female part of a plant. *Pollination* must come before fertilization.

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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. Germination, the process of a seed starting to grow, is part of a plant's life cycle.
2. When a plant grows to its full size, it reaches maturity.
3. Plants that have reached maturity make seeds that can grow into new plants.
4. Most plants make seeds in flowers, but some make seeds in cones.
5. Flowers and cones make male sex cells, called sperm, and female sex cells, called eggs.
6. Sperm cells are in grains of pollen; eggs are in the pistil at the base of a flower.
7. Pollination occurs when pollen moves to the female part of a plant.
8. Wind, water, and animals help make pollination possible.
9. Fertilization occurs when a sperm and egg join together and grow into a new plant inside a seed.
10. Animals, wind, and water help spread a plant's seeds.