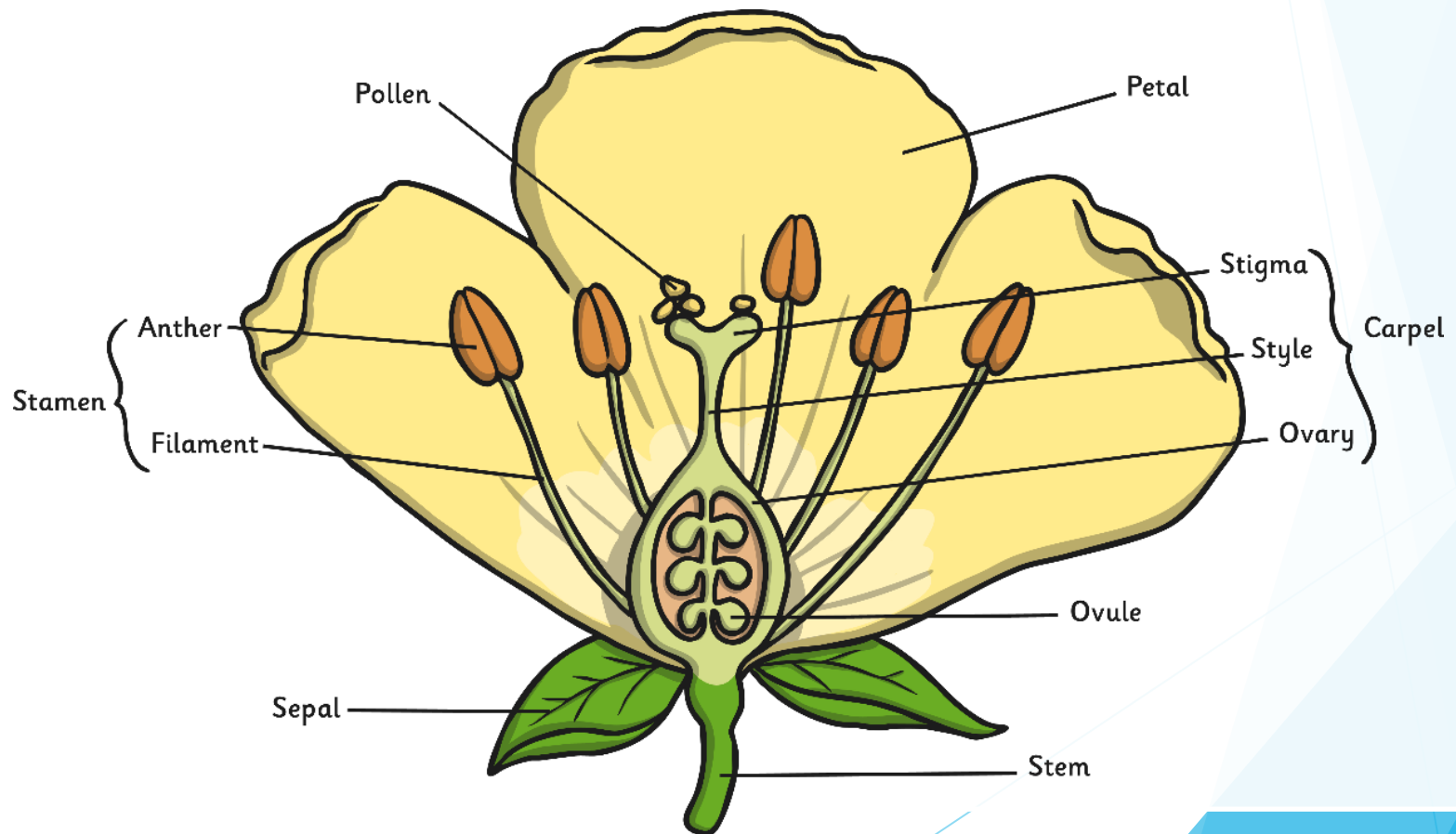


# Seed Dispersal

# Making Seeds

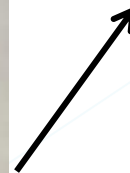
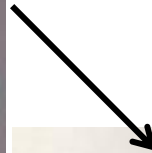
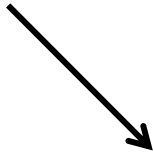
Last week we looked closely at the different parts of a flower and how these are needed in order for the plant to make seeds through a process called – **Pollination!**



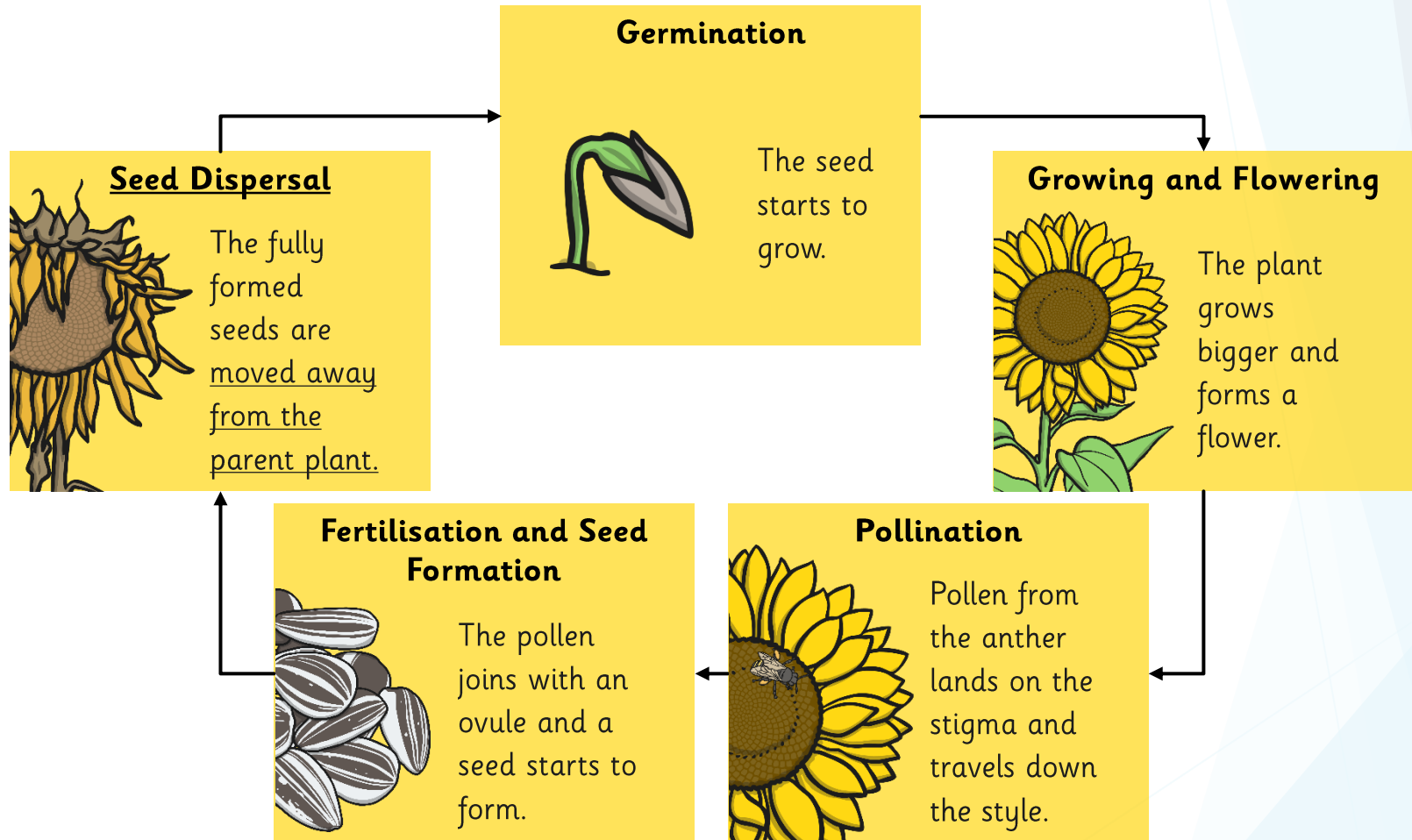
# Seed Dispersal

Once a flower has been pollinated it develops seeds within a pod or inside a fruit.

These seeds must now be dispersed (moved away from the parent plant) in order for new plants to grow and the process to begin all over again!



# The Life Cycle of a Plant



**But how are the seeds moved away and dispersed in a new place?**

# Seed Dispersal

Many plants use **gravity** to disperse their seeds. This means that when the fruit or seed is ripe, it simply **falls** off the plant and lands on the ground.

It can however, be difficult for a plant to grow right underneath its parent plant, because the new plant might not get enough:

- ▶ Space
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Sunlight

So plants have come up with lots of clever ways to spread out their seeds, enabling them to find good places to grow!



# Seed Dispersal - Falling

When an **Horse Chestnut** tree has been pollinated, it produces conkers. When the conkers are ripe, they drop off the tree. Many of the heavy conkers use **gravity** to roll away from the parent and find a good spot to germinate!





# Seed Dispersal – Catching A Lift

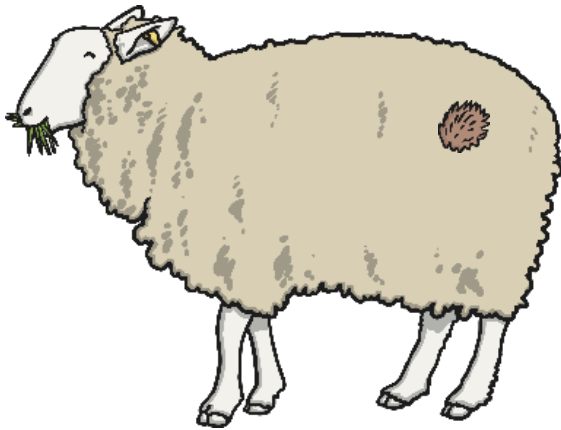
When an **Oak Tree** has been pollinated, it produces acorns. When the acorns are ripe, they also use gravity like the conkers, to drop off the tree. But some animals like squirrels and jays take the acorns and store them to eat another day. Sometimes these acorns are forgotten and so they germinate (begin to grow).



The acorns have **caught a lift** to somewhere new!.

# Seed Dispersal – Catching A Lift

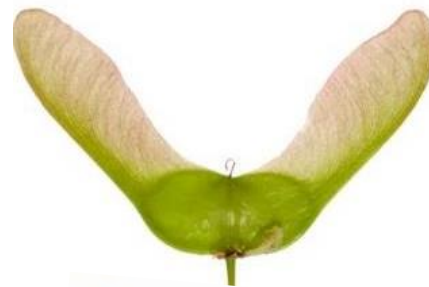
Some plants like **Wood Avens** and **Burdock**, catch a lift in another way! They produce seeds that have little hooks, which attach onto the fur of passing animals. The seeds then drop off later, in a new location.





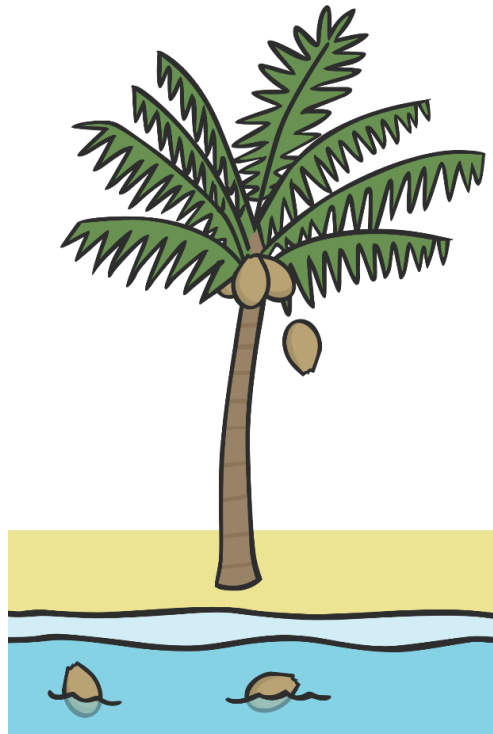
# Seed Dispersal – Wind

Some plants like **Dandelions** and **Sycamores**, develop seeds that spin or glide or float to the ground slowly. This gives time for the **wind** to catch them so they can drift gently away from the parent plant on the breeze. Or plants like **Poppies** scatter their seeds from their pods as the wind blows.



# Seed Dispersal – Water

**Coconut Palms, Cattails** and **Lotus Flowers**, grow on or near the water. When their seeds are ripe, they fall or are blown into the water. They float along and find new places to germinate.



# Seed Dispersal – Eaten By Animals

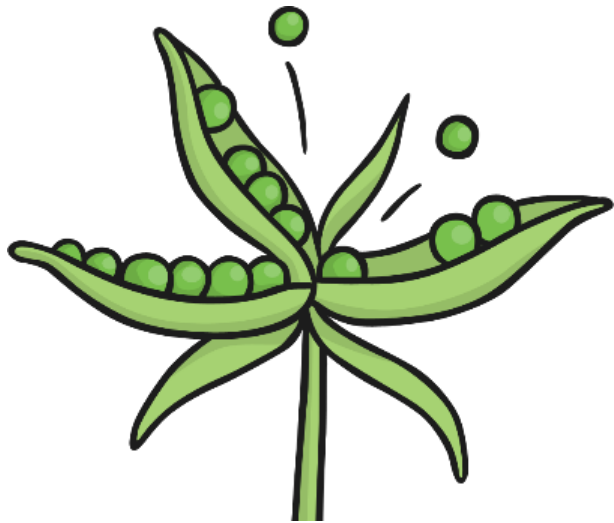
Some plants produce **fruits** which contain their seeds. **Berries** attract animals who **eat** the fruit and the seeds they contain. When the animal produces droppings, these fall to the ground and the seeds within them grow into a new plant!



**Please remember:** Not all fruits/seeds are suitable for humans to eat.

# Seed Dispersal – Exploding

**Witch Hazel, Violets** and **Pea** plants all produce seeds contained inside a pod. When the seeds inside become ripe and the pod begins to dry out, it **explodes** and sends the seeds flying off far away from the parent plant!



# Activities











Using this resource can you now complete the sheets






**‘Sorting Seeds – Activity 1’** and

**‘Paper Copter – Activity 2’**

<b>Sorting Seeds</b>		
Can you sort the seeds on page 2 into the table, to show how they are dispersed?		
<b>Wind</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Catching a Lift</b>

 Dandelion	 Raspberries	 Lotus Flower	 Burdock	 Violet
 Cattail	 Wood Aven	 Coconut	 Witch Hazel	 Blackberries

<b>Paper-Copter</b>	
Can you make a paper seed that spins to the ground? We will call it a 'Paper-copter'	
<b>Instructions:</b>	
1. Take one of the paper-copter templates on page 2 and a pair of scissors. Cut along all the solid lines, but not the dotted ones!	
2. Now fold flap A towards you and flap B away from you, by folding along the dotted lines.	
3. Next fold flaps C and D, along the dotted lines, behind the central 'stem'.	
4. Then fold up the small bottom section of the stem along the dotted line.	
5. Finally push a paperclip over the fold. Your Paper-copter is now finished. Try it out by dropping it from above your head.	
<b>Remember</b> the best seed (paper-copter) takes the longest time to fall! This is because the longer it is in the air, the more chance there is that the wind will carry it away to find a new place to grow.	