

# POLLINATION

Mason arrives at a beautiful flower meadow. In the bright sunshine, it is alive with the buzz of busy bees doing what they do best: visiting flower after flower, feasting on sweet nectar and picking up pollen along the way. Mason spots so many different types of bees, how will she ever find the bee from the label?

Just as Mason is about to start asking around, she hears a thunderous noise overhead. It's like the buzz of a bee, but turned up to the max. Seemingly unaffected by the loud noise, the wasps lurk under the shade of a flower...

One bee can pollinate around 5,000 flowers a day. That's 800,000 in their lifetime.

## Pollination Station

Bees make excellent pollinators because they have furry legs and bodies. As the bee visits the flower, pollen catches on to the fur and can then be transported with the bee.

**1** The bright colour of flower petals and a sweet smell tell bees, and other pollinating insects like hoverflies, that the flower has sugary nectar.

**2** The bee enjoys the flower's sweet nectar with its long, straw-like tongue, called a proboscis. Tiny dust-like pollen grains, produced by the part of the flower called the anther, get stuck to the bee.

**3** When the bee visits another flower, the pollen is transferred to the sticky part, called the stigma, on this new flower. This is when pollination occurs meaning the plant can now produce fruit and seeds, which will in turn grow into new plants.



Pollen grains

Stigma