

RESPONSE SHEET—PLANT REPRODUCTION

One of your good friends was absent the day plant reproduction was discussed in class. She is trying to write a paragraph describing plant reproduction.

All I know is that baby plants come from seeds—I don't really know where seeds come from.

What would you tell your friend that would help her understand plant reproduction?

A pollinator, like a bee or hummingbird, goes to a flower to get food. It gets pollen on its body. Some of the pollen sticks to the stigma of the pistil of the next flower it visits. That is how pollination happens.

Pollen grains contain the male sex cell, the sperm. After it lands on the stigma, the pollen grain grows a tube down into the ovule, located in the pistil. The sperm travels down the tube into the ovule, where it joins with the egg. When the sperm fuses with the egg, the egg is fertilized. The fertilized egg develops into an embryo, which is closed in the seed coat with the cotyledons. The embryo, cotyledon, and seed coat make the seed. The seed is the living baby plant in a dormant state.