

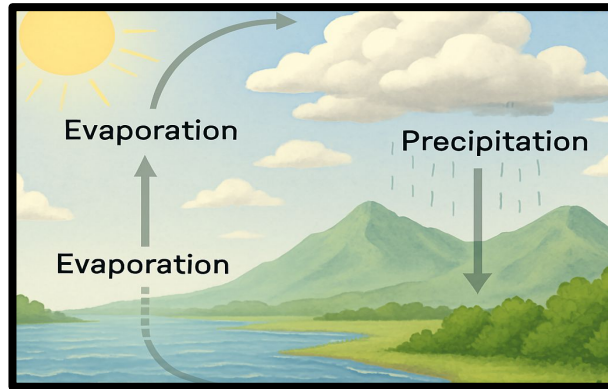
Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



How Bees Help Plants

Bees are tiny insects with a big job. As they move from flower to flower, they collect a powder called **pollen**. This helps flowers make seeds and grow new plants. When a bee lands on a flower, some pollen sticks to its body. As the bee flies to the next flower, it leaves the pollen behind. This process is called **pollination**. Pollination is important because it helps fruits and vegetables grow. Without bees, many plants would not be able to produce food. Bees don't mean to help—they're just collecting nectar for honey—but they help plants anyway!



How Wind Helps Plants

The wind can help plants, too. Some plants don't need bees at all. Instead, they use the wind to move pollen from one flower to another. Grasses and trees often have flowers that are small and not very colorful. That's because they don't need to attract animals. Their pollen is very light. When the wind blows, it picks up the pollen and carries it to other plants. This kind of pollination works best in open spaces. Even though wind isn't alive, it plays a big part in helping some plants grow.



Name: _____

How Bees Help Plants & How Wind Helps Plants

1. What is one way bees and wind are similar in helping plants?

- A. Both move pollen to help flowers grow new plants.
- B. Both make the plants change color.
- C. Both fly from flower to flower on purpose.
- D. Both are only used by fruit trees.

2. How is wind pollination different from bee pollination?

- A. Wind does not visit flowers or make honey.
- B. Wind uses bright colors to attract insects.
- C. Wind carries seeds from animals.
- D. Wind pollinates only during storms.

3. Fill in the blank:

Bees and wind both help plants by moving _____ from one flower to another.

4. What is one important point from each passage about how plants grow?

5. How are bees and wind different in the way they help with pollination?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational / Life Science

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read two passages about how plants get help with pollination. One talks about bees, and the other talks about wind. As we read, we'll compare the main ideas of each passage and how each helper plays a role."

Vocabulary: pollen, pollination, nectar, produce, compare

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about how plants grow?
 2. Can plants grow without help from people?
 3. Have you ever seen bees near flowers or trees moving in the wind?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do bees help plants without meaning to?
 2. Why do some plants use wind instead of insects?
 3. What details show how pollination works?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How are bees and wind alike in how they help plants?
 2. What are two key differences between bee pollination and wind pollination?
 3. Why is it helpful to compare two texts on the same topic?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a Venn diagram comparing bee pollination and wind pollination. Then write two short paragraphs—one explaining how they're alike and one explaining how they're different—using text evidence from both passages.

