

All Kinds of Pollinators

by ReadWorks



Lemurs are just one of many kinds of pollinators.

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Plants need pollination! Pollination is when pollen from a plant's flower gets moved to a certain part of another flower. This **movement** of pollen has to happen for a plant to grow new seeds. And new seeds are needed for new plants to grow. So without pollination, plants would be in big trouble!

Luckily, different plants have different ways of making sure their pollen moves. Some plants let lots of pollen out into the air. That way, the wind can move the pollen to other flowers. But most plants do not **depend** on the wind to spread their pollen. Instead, they **depend** on insects and animals.

Lots of insects and animals can help **pollinate** plants. You may know of

some of them. Bees are known for **pollinating** flowers. So are butterflies, beetles, and other bugs. Hummingbirds and bats also are big helpers in this way. But there are other pollinators that you may not know about! Here are some interesting animals that help **pollinate** plants:

Honey Possums

These mammals **pollinate** flowers from plants like eucalyptus. The honey possum's tail and feet help it hang from tree branches. That way it can reach the tree's flowers more easily!

Lizards

Some kinds of lizards are also pollinators. One kind of lizard that **pollinates** flowers is the Noronha skink. As this lizard sips up nectar from a certain tree's flowers, pollen sticks to its scales. So when the lizard goes to another flower, it moves the pollen.

Lemurs

Lemurs are some of the world's biggest pollinators. Black lemurs eat the nectar and pollen of a plant called the traveller's palm. When they stick their paws or snouts into the flower to get the nectar, pollen can get stuck to them. Then, when they go to the next flower, the pollen goes with them!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do most plants depend on to spread their pollen?

- A. wind and weather
- B. insects and animals
- C. eucalyptus plants
- D. traveler's palm

2. What does the text list in the third paragraph that begins with "Lots of insects and animals...?"

- A. all of the different types of lizards that pollinate a tree's flowers
- B. the different ways wind helps pollinate plants
- C. the different types of nectar enjoyed by animals
- D. the different types of insects and animals that help plant pollination

3. Read the following sentences from the text.

"Luckily, different plants have different ways of making sure their pollen moves. Some plants let lots of pollen out into the air. That way, the wind can move the pollen to other flowers. But most plants do not depend on the wind to spread their pollen. Instead, they depend on insects and animals."

What conclusion can you draw from this evidence?

- A. All plants depend on wind for pollination because they let pollen into the air.
- B. Plants that don't let pollen into the air depend on animals and insects for pollination.
- C. Without insects, pollination would fully stop for all plants.
- D. Insects and animals depend on wind to make sure they can move to new plants.

4. Some animals use their bodies, and not their mouths, to pollinate plants. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

A. "As this lizard sips up nectar from a certain tree's flowers, pollen sticks to its scales. So when the lizard goes to another flower, it moves the pollen."

B. "And new seeds are needed for new plants to grow. So without pollination, plants would be in big trouble!"

C. "Pollination is when pollen from a plant's flower gets moved to a certain part of another flower."

D. "Bees are known for pollinating flowers. So are butterflies, beetles, and other bugs. Hummingbirds and bats also are big helpers in this way."

5. What is the main idea of the text?

A. Lizards like the Noronha skink sip nectar from a certain tree's flowers, and pollen sticks to their scales.

B. Bees and hummingbirds are known around the world for pollinating flowers and trees.

C. Many different types of insects and animals help pollinate plants to grow new seeds.

D. When plants let pollen into the air, wind helps move this pollen to other plants farther away.