

How Do Plants Reproduce?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

germination [jer•mih•n•AY•shuhn] the process of a seed sprouting

Germination and *grow* begin with different sounds, but the same letter. *Germination* is when the tiny plant in a seed starts to grow.

maturity [muh•CHER•uh•tee] the point at which a plant grows to its full size

When people say, “Don’t be a baby!” they mean act more mature, or grown-up. When someone or something reaches *maturity*, it is fully grown.

fertilization [fer•tuhl•uh•ZAT•shuhn] the process of a sperm and an egg cell joining together

Fertilization and *fertilizer* are in the same word family. A fertilizer is something added to soil to help plants grow. When *fertilization* takes place, a new plant may grow within a seed.

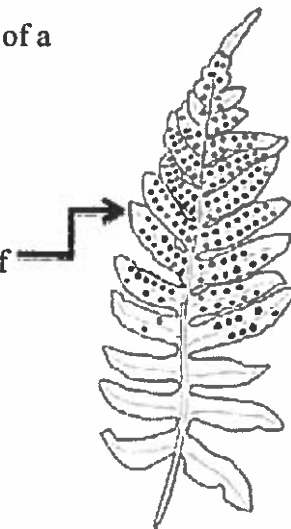
pollination [pah•luh•NAY•shuhn] the process of pollen moving from a male plant part to a female plant part

Pollination and *pollen* are in the same word family. Pollen contains sperm, the male sex cell. *Pollination* is pollen getting to where it needs to go—the female part of a plant. *Pollination* must come before fertilization.

spore [SPAWR] a cell that can grow into a new plant when the conditions are right

Spore and *more* end with the same sounds. A *spore* makes more of a plant.

These dots are groups of spores on the under side of a fern leaf.



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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. The series of stages a living thing goes through as it develops is called its life cycle.
2. Most plants make seeds in flowers; some make seeds in cones.
3. Flowers and cones make sperm, which are male sex cells, and eggs, which are female sex cells.
4. Sperm cells are in grains of pollen; eggs are in the pistil at the base of a flower.
5. Plants reproduce through pollination; wind, water, and animals help make pollination possible.
6. Bees and butterflies carry pollen from plant to plant as they look for food.
7. Flowing water may carry pollen from one water plant to the next.
8. Animals, wind, and water help spread a plant's seeds.
9. Some plants grow from spores, which are released when the structure that holds them breaks.
10. Wind carries the spores to places with light and water where they may grow into new plants.