



Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind



1. What are flowers designed for? _____
2. What do the male *anthers* of a flower produce? _____
3. What does the *stigma* do? _____
4. What basic challenge in plants are flowers trying to overcome? _____

5. Hammer Orchids mimic what kind of insect? _____
6. What natural event triggers the timing of events in the hammer orchid pollination system?
Consider the role humans might have on this. _____

7. Describe how the Hammer Orchids pollination mechanism works. _____

8. What are some examples of flowering plants that use wind to disperse pollen? _____

9. Why do you think wind pollinated flowers lack showy petals and bright colors? _____

10. Teasel plants have adapted moats of water between their leaves to prevent ants from climbing up to flowers. Why is this beneficial? _____

11. The African Water-lily kills a fly to obtain pollen on its body. Why do you think it kills the fly on the *first day* before it releases its own pollen? _____

12. What key characteristic makes certain organisms ideal pollinators? _____
13. Why do some species of flowers point toward the ground? _____

14. . What bird group is most commonly recognized as pollinators? _____

15. Some plants have adapted to flowering in water. Describe the pollination steps in the example shown in the video? _____

16. What role in the environment do Blow Flies serve (hint this has little to do with pollination)?

17. In many places seabird colonies have declined dramatically due to a variety of reasons. What affect might this have on the *carrion flowers* success on such remote islands where it flourishes near such colonies. Explain. _____

18. Describe the extraordinary pollination mechanism of the Bucket Orchid. _____

19. Why is it advantageous for a species of flower to specialize on a single pollinator species? _____

20. What risk is there to a species of flower that specializes on a single pollinator species? _____

21. Name four strategies flowers use to attract insects to flowers. _____

22. Generate a list of organisms that pollinate flowers. _____

23. Is pollination the sole function of flowers? What else do they do *after* pollination that is adaptive? _____

