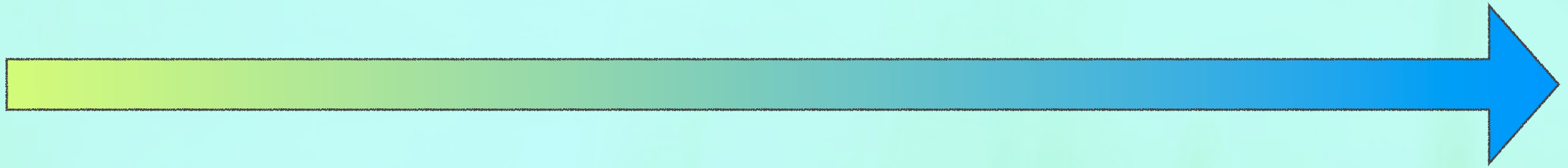


How Plants Grow

Learning Objective:

To explore some of the ways in which flowering plants disperse their seeds.



pollination

seed formation

Can you
correctly order these
stages in the life cycle of
flowering plants?

seed dispersal

plant growth

germination

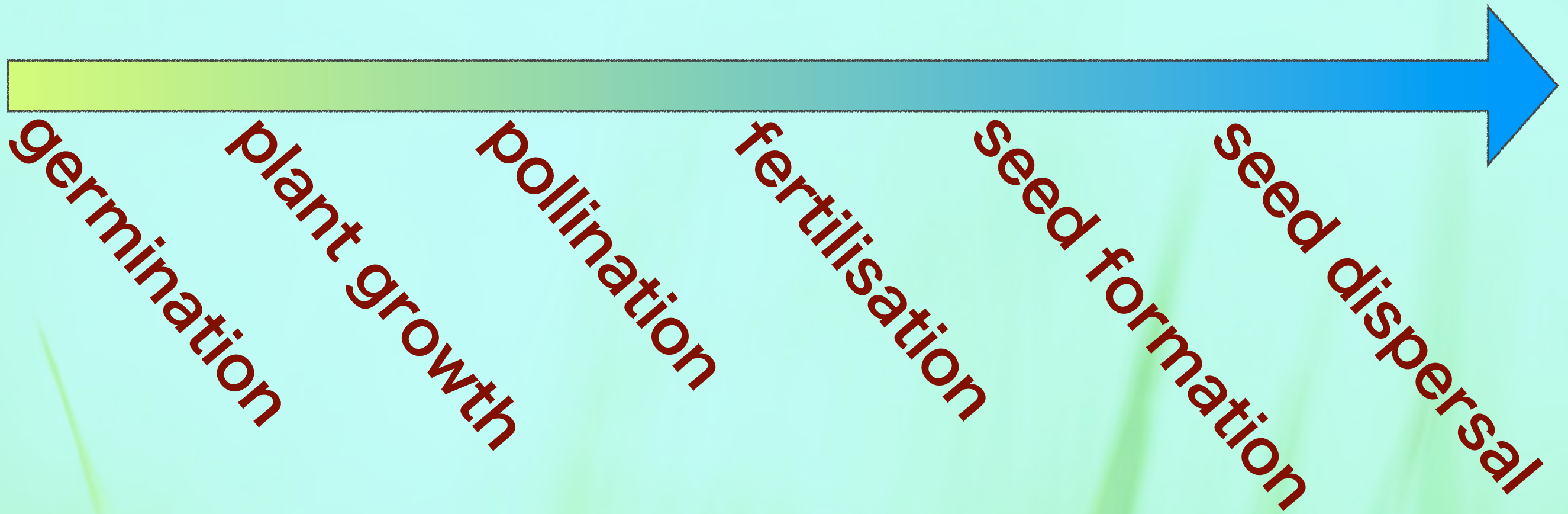
fertilisation



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Did you
get it right?

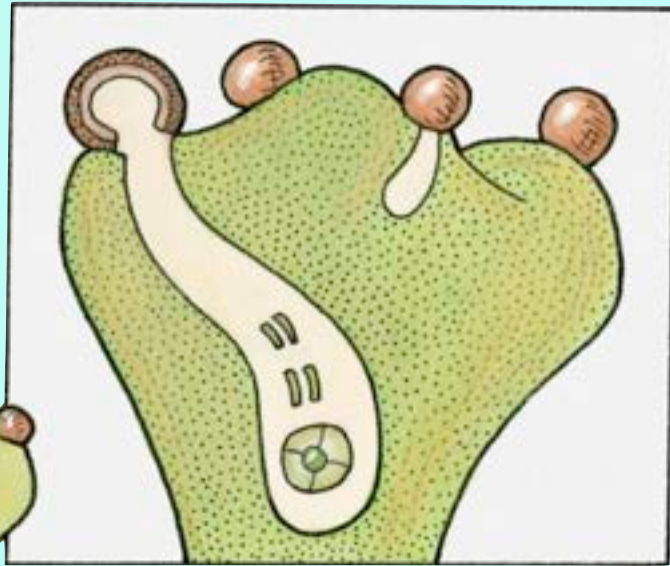


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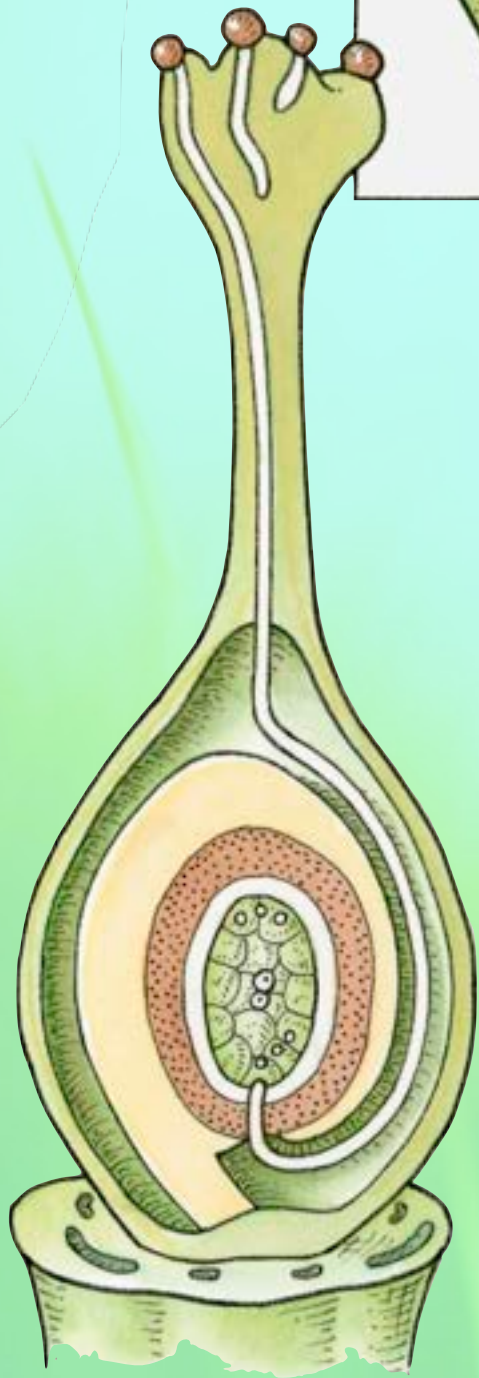
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Fertilisation is when genetic information from pollen combines with an egg cell in the ovary of a flower.



Seeds then start to grow inside the ovary. The flower of the plant changes as the seeds grow. Let's find out more...



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Once fertilised, the ovary of the flower starts to swell and grow. Seeds grow inside it, and the petals and stamen gradually fall off the flower.



The ovary becomes a fruit! The pictures above are all of fruit growing on different flowering plants. Do you recognise them? Can you think of some more?

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Horse chestnut



Broad bean



Gooseberry



Poppy

Did you get
any right?



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All plants need to disperse their seeds so that they don't fall on the ground underneath them. Why?



Discuss your ideas.

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- The new plant that grows from the seed needs sunlight. It is too shady underneath the leaves of another plant.
- The new plant needs water and minerals from the soil. If it grows too near to other plants it might not get enough.



Did you think of these reasons?

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How do plants disperse their seeds?

Discuss your ideas.



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There are a number of tricks plants use to disperse their seeds. Let's see if you thought of any of these...



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Some plants such as grasses and dandelions use the wind to help them disperse their seeds. The seeds are blown away from their parent plant.

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Lots of plants use animals to disperse their seeds. Birds will eat these blackberries. The seeds pass through the birds' bodies and land on the ground in their droppings.

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Bean pods like these **explode** when they are ripe!

The pods dry out and get tightly stretched around the beans inside. Eventually, they explode and fling the beans through the air!

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These Burdock fruits stick to the furry coats of animals such as sheep and get a free ride to a new place where they can grow!

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Some fruits burst when they fall to the ground.
The spiky outside of the Horse Chestnut fruit
breaks when it lands and the conker rolls away.

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The fruit of some plants, like these poppies, are just like pepper pots! They sway in the wind or shake when animals brush past them. The seeds are shaken out of the top.

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Some fruits can float on water. The coconuts from these palms will fall into the water. The tide will carry them to another beach where they might grow.

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Today we will be
looking closely at the fruits of
flowering plants and working out how
their seeds are dispersed.



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