

# PARTS OF A FLOWER

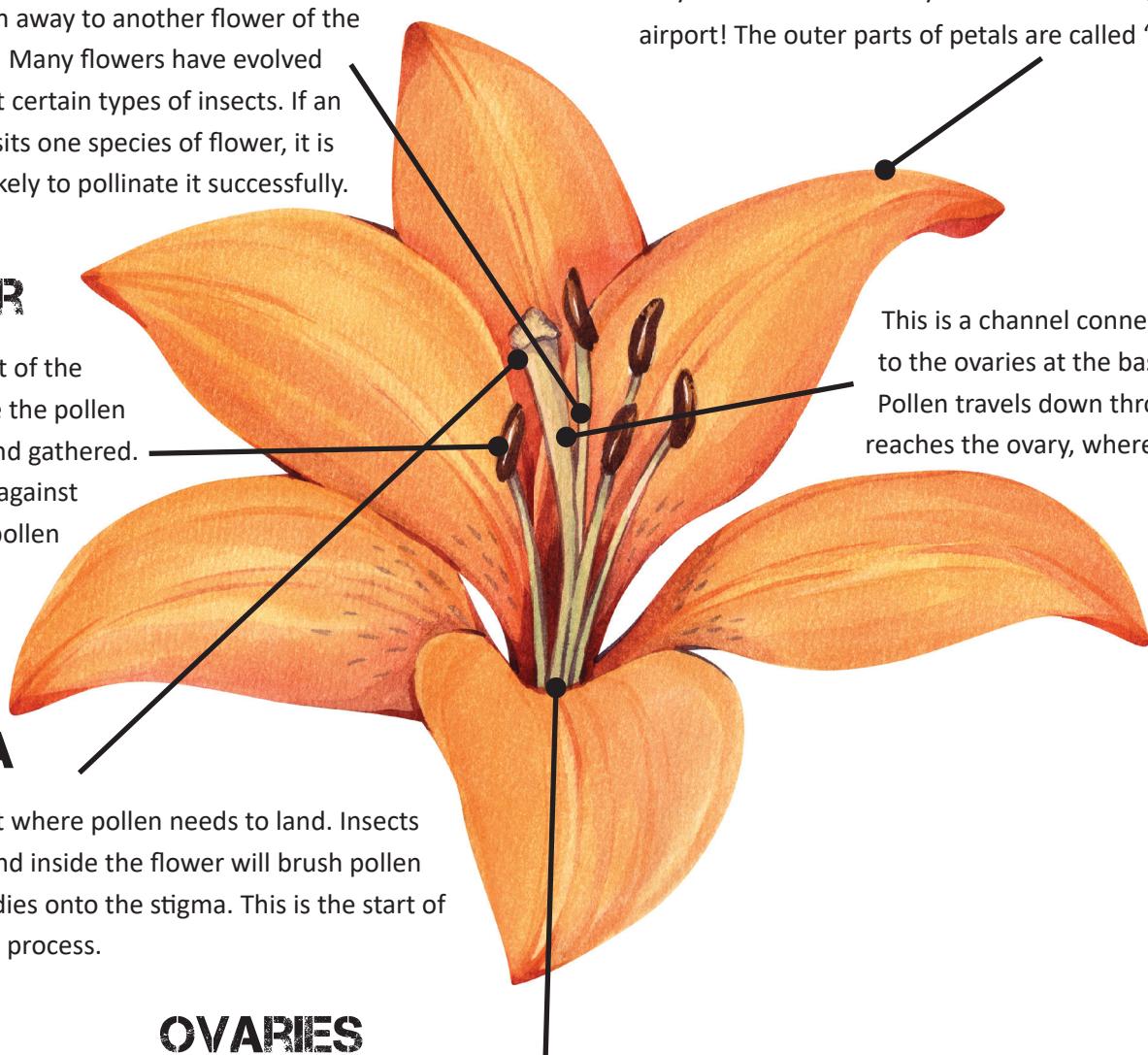
Flowers may look pretty, but there is a great deal more to them than this. They serve one of the most important purposes in a plant's life cycle - reproduction. Without flowers, plants wouldn't be able to produce seeds, and their species would quickly die out. Let's shrink ourselves down and dive into a flower to see what's what.

## STAMEN

These are the male parts of a flower. They are responsible for producing pollen. It is important that pollen is taken away to another flower of the same species. Many flowers have evolved to only attract certain types of insects. If an insect only visits one species of flower, it is much more likely to pollinate it successfully.

## ANTHER

This is the part of the stamen where the pollen is produced and gathered. Insects brush against this, and the pollen sticks to their bodies.



## STIGMA

This is the spot where pollen needs to land. Insects fumbling around inside the flower will brush pollen off of their bodies onto the stigma. This is the start of the pollination process.

## OVARIES

These bulbous parts of the flower produce the seeds. They are pollinated when pollen travels down through the style and meets the seed. Once the seeds are pollinated, the flower will die and turn into a fruit or a seed head. The seeds are then ready to be dispersed.

## PETALS

These are very important because they attract pollinating insects. The flower needs insects to land on it so that they can collect the pollen to take to another flower. The bright colours of the petals draw the insects in. Some petals even have special signals marked on them that only insects can see. They act like the landing lights at an airport! The outer parts of petals are called "sepals".

## STYLE

This is a channel connecting the stigma to the ovaries at the base of the flower. Pollen travels down through this until it reaches the ovary, where it will pollinate the seeds.



## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Which part of a flower produces the seeds?
2. Where does pollen need to be deposited?
3. In which part of the plant is pollen gathered before it is collected by an insect?
4. What is it about petals that attracts insects?
5. What is the name for insects that carry pollen from one plant to another?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

Why are flowers so important to plants?

**S**

Summarise the journey of pollen from one plant to another.

**V**

Find and copy a phrase that means “attracts them to it”.

**V**

Which word means “make smaller”?