

All About Spring

Spring is one of the four seasons and is the season that comes after winter and before summer. Spring starts on 20th March and ends on the 21st June. Spring is the season when we change our clocks forward one hour. In spring, the weather is often unpredictable and we have a mixture of sunny and rainy days.

What happens to the animals?

Animals such as hedgehogs, grass snakes, lizards, adders, frogs and toads come out of hibernation on the first warm spring days. Animals also start to reproduce - you might see frogspawn, which looks like jelly, in ponds.

Some animals move about a lot more in spring, such as squirrels. You can see squirrels scampering about, looking for food and climbing trees.

For many birdwatchers, spring is an exciting time of the year. This is because there are lots of migrant birds that come back to the UK in the spring. With the warmer weather, you can see swifts, cuckoos and nightingales.

What happens to the plants and the insects?

Nature is very busy in spring and there are lots of changes. You can see the trees and bushes sprout new leaves again and many plants flower because the air and soil are warmer and there are more daylight hours.

Many more insects can be spotted in spring, including butterflies and bees, which like the flowers. Insects play a crucial role in pollination (the creation of new seeds) and help plants to reproduce.

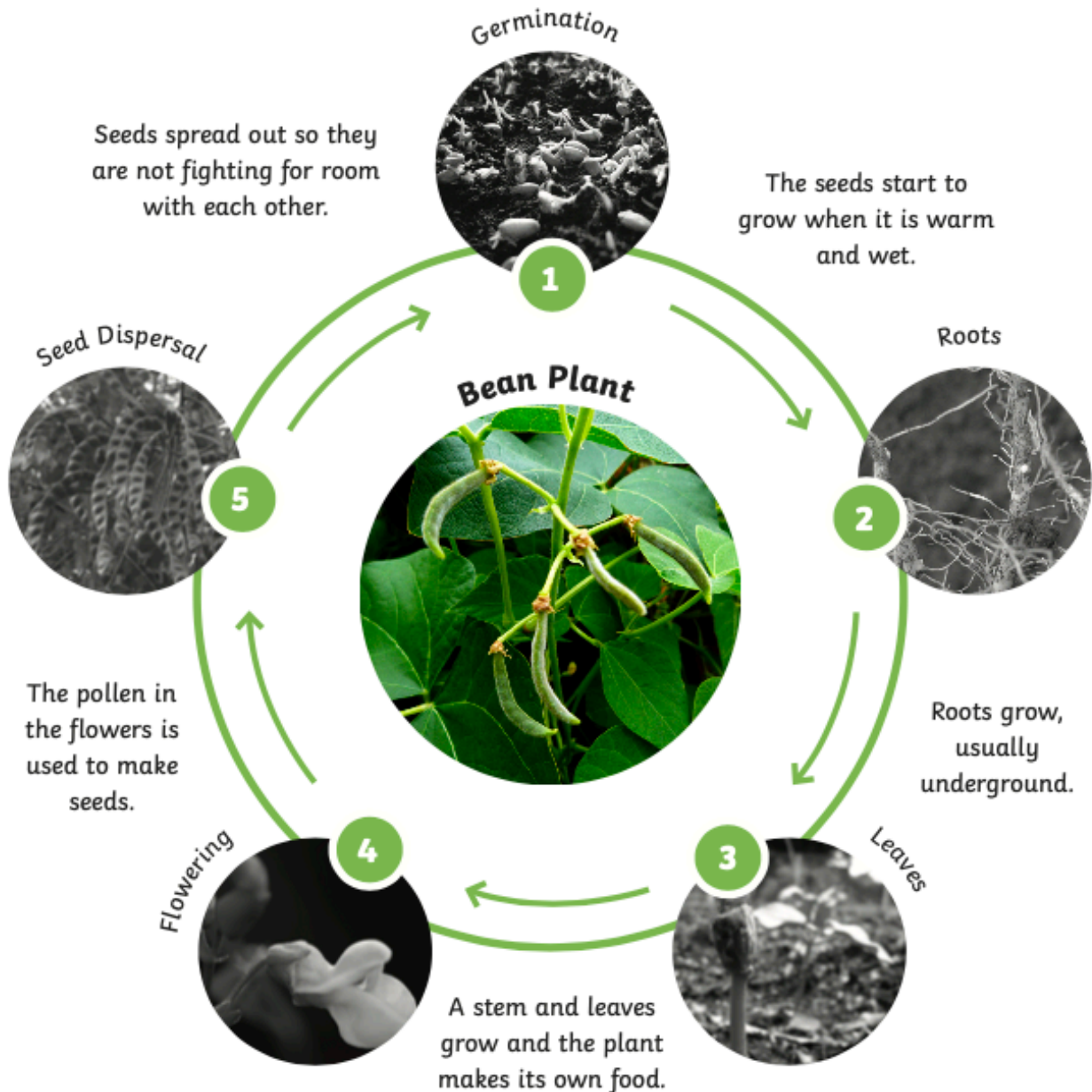
Did You Know...?

Hibernation isn't just a long sleep. During hibernation, creatures slow down their breathing and heart rates to save energy.

Bats can slow their heart rates down from 400 beats per minute, to 11!



The Flowering Plant Life Cycle



Easter

Easter is a celebration that happens in spring in the northern hemisphere. It started as a religious festival and now many people celebrate it with chocolate eggs, games or an Easter egg hunt. Easter Sunday always falls on a day between 22nd March and 25th April.

Questions

1. Spring is the season that comes between? Tick **one**.

- autumn and winter
- summer and autumn
- winter and summer
- autumn and summer

2. Read the **What happens to the animals?** section.

Why do you think some birdwatchers find spring exciting? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

3. Name **two** things that animals do during hibernation.

4. Which migrating birds can you see in spring? Tick **one**.

- cuckoos
- swifts
- nightingales
- all of the above

5. Read the **What happens to the plants and insects?** section. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **important**.

6. Number the statements to order the events of a plant life cycle. The first one has been done for you.

	The seeds spread out.
1	The seeds grow when it is warm and wet.
	The plant sprouts roots.
	Pollen in flowers are used to make seeds.
	The plant grows leaves.

7. Easter Sunday falls on a day between 22nd March and...? Tick **one**.

- 25th March
- 22nd April
- 25th April
- 22nd March

8. In your own words, explain why plants and trees grow leaves and flowers in spring.
