

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 to British Summer Time. We do this so we are awake for more of daylight hours and it was originally started to save money on candles. 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 in ponds and calves and lambs in fields.

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 is an abundance of changes. You can see the trees and bushes sprout new leaves again in spring 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.

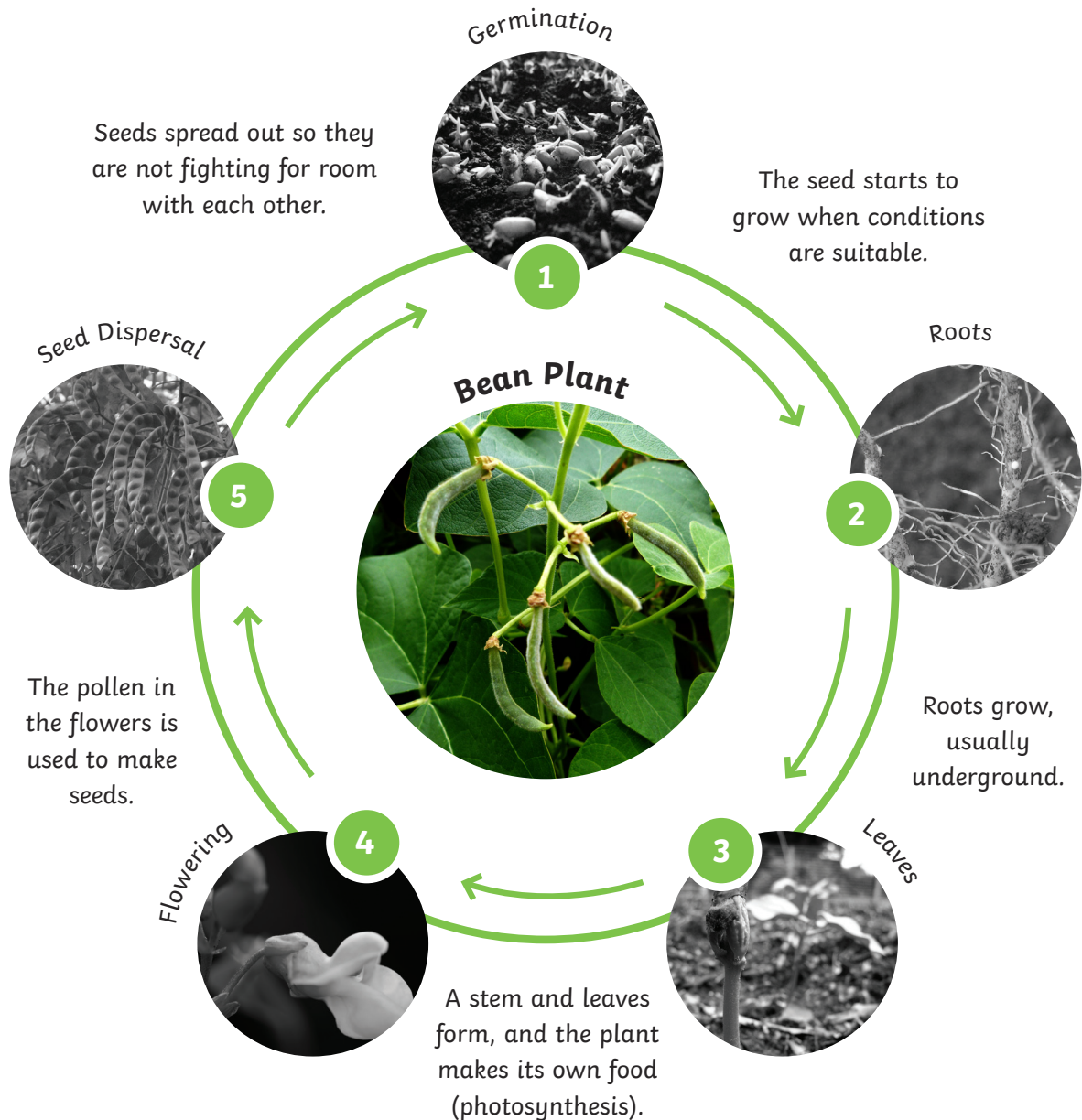
Did You Know...?

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.

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Questions

1. Explain in your own words why the clocks move forwards one hour in spring.

2. How many beats per minute can a bat make their heart rate during hibernation? Tick **one**.

- 21
 11
 60
 20

3. List **three** animals mentioned in the text that come out of hibernation in spring.

4. Why do plants and trees grow more leaves and flowers in spring?

5. Explain in your own words why the author has used sub headings.

6. Read the **What Happens to the Plants and Insects** section.
What does the word **abundance** mean?

7. Fill in the table.

Pollen	
	The process in which seeds begin to grow.
Seed dispersal	
	These usually grow underground.

8. Why might someone like the season spring? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
