

STAGE TWO:

Pollination

VOCABULARY

pollination: the act of carrying pollen between plants

pollen: the fertilizing element of plants; often appears as yellow powder

cross-pollination: the transfer of pollen from the flower of one plant to the flower of another plant

Pollination is the act of carrying **pollen** between plants. Without bloom or pollination, we simply would not have almonds. Soft pink-and-white petals appear each spring to attract the bees that pollinate thousands of trees. What's so special about almond pollination is that every other row of almonds is planted with a different variety of almond. Growers must plant the rows with different varieties for cross-pollination. **Cross-pollination** occurs when the bees move the pollen from one variety to another.

Bees help to pollinate more than 90 crops each year. These crops include apples, cherries, melons, pumpkins and sunflowers. What you may not know is that bats, hummingbirds, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies and beetles can pollinate plants, too; however, bees do the best job at pollinating almond trees.

ACTIVITY

Color in the picture of the bee pollinating the flower.

