

Pictures for Talk

IN PRIMARY SCIENCE

A picture can be a very good stimulus for children to engage in effective talk in science. Using pictures is an inclusive approach which facilitates high levels of participation. Pictures can also be used as a starting point for inquiry. The discussions the children have will generate questions that they want to investigate.

Asking the children carefully chosen questions about a picture will help them learn to:

- construct explanations and link their ideas with evidence
- make confident challenges to the ideas of others
- explore scientific terminology and use it with genuine understanding

Pictures for talk in science activities are designed to be very open ended and usable with any age of children. The activities can be done as a quick ten minute starter, or extended into a longer and more in-depth lesson.



WHAT TO DO

Download the image by following the [link](#), and either display on a whiteboard or give children printed copies.

Ask the children to work in groups of three to discuss the following questions:

WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE THINGS COULD BE?

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS?

After an initial discussion, tell the children that the picture is of grains of pollen from a sunflower and that they have been magnified so we can see them close up. Ask them to think about how the pollen is transferred from one flower to another; at this point, you might want to show them a picture of bees on a sunflower – see below for examples.

Ask the children to look again at the pollen grains and to discuss what pollen grains need to be like in order to be transferred by the bee from one flower to another.

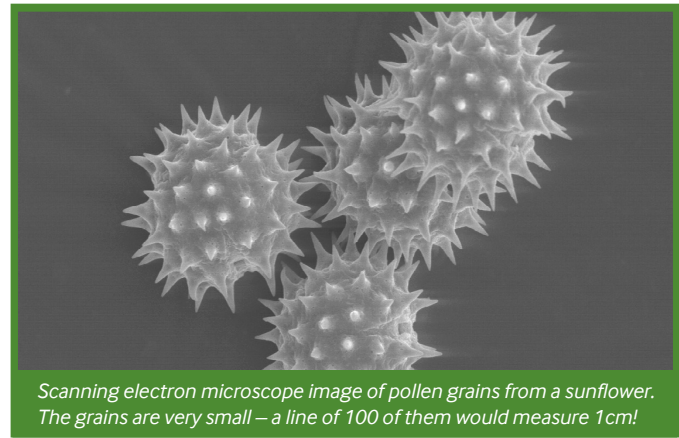
FURTHER QUESTIONS TO GENERATE THINKING AND EXPLAINING

Why do you think they have spikes?

What else might they be like?

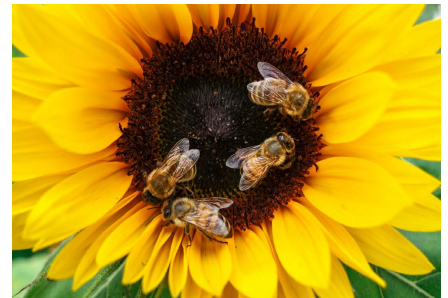
Why is the bee visiting the flower? What does it want?

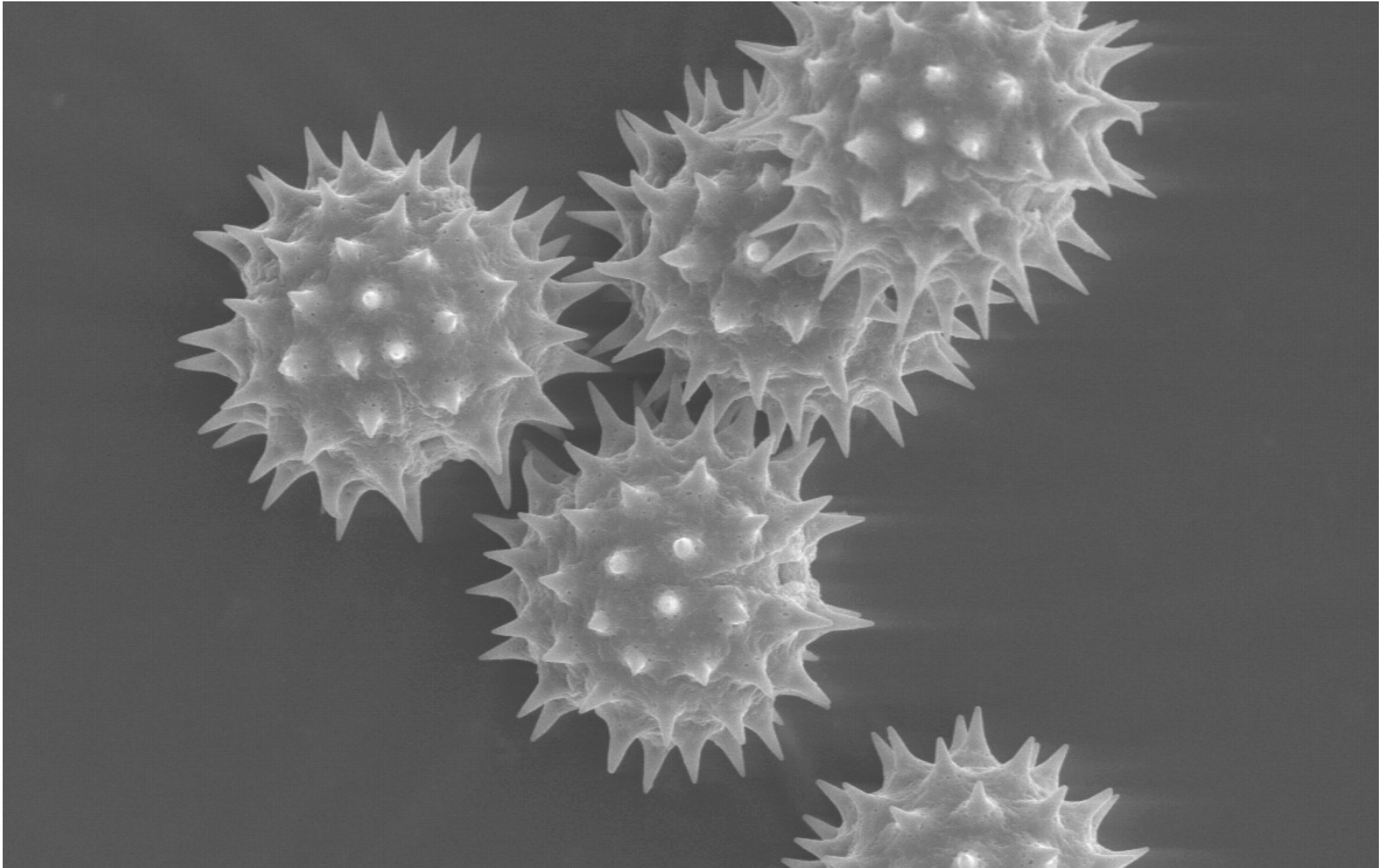
In what other ways is pollen spread from flower to flower? If pollen is spread by wind, what do you think the pollen grains would be like?



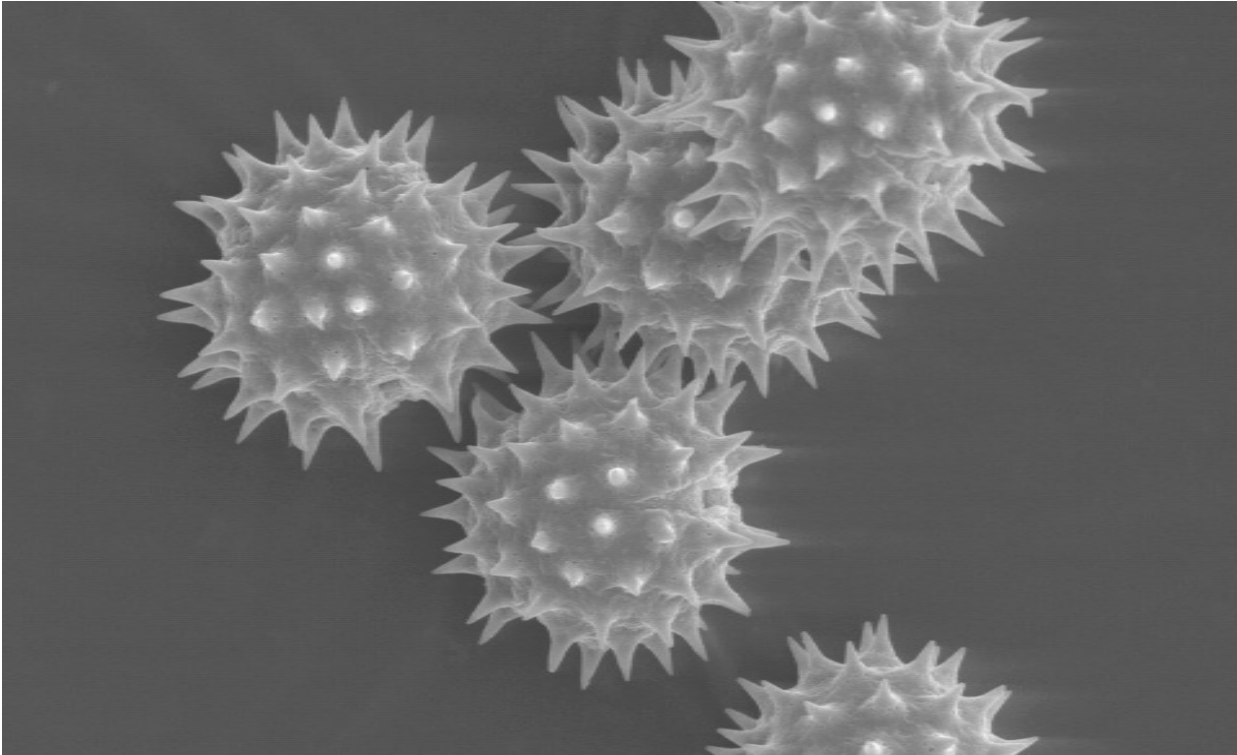
Scanning electron microscope image of pollen grains from a sunflower. The grains are very small – a line of 100 of them would measure 1cm!

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL PAGE IMAGE](#)





[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD IMAGE FROM WIKI COMMONS](#)



This slideshow was created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust.
For more Pictures for Talk, please visit:
www.pstt.org.uk/resources/pictures-for-talk/

About the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT)

PSTT is a charity whose vision is to see excellent teaching of science in every primary classroom in the UK

What we offer

- **FREE** tried and tested, curriculum-linked resources

BROWSE RESOURCES HERE: www.pstt.org.uk/resources/

- Guidance for science subject leaders

VISIT: www.pstt.org.uk/support/support-for-science-leadership/

- Bespoke one-to-one support for science subject and school leaders

FIND OUT MORE HERE: www.pstt.org.uk/support/

