How do plants reproduce?

KS2 KS3 Ages 7-14 ⏰ 2 min read

When you see a dandelion's fluffy seeds floating on the wind or watch a bee buzzing around a sunflower, you're actually witnessing plant reproduction in action. Plants need to make new plants to survive as a species, just like animals do, but they've developed some fascinating methods that are quite different from how animals reproduce.

The Flower Power Method

Most plants you're familiar with use **1**, which happens through flowers. Each flower contains both male parts called **1** (which produce pollen) and female parts called **1** (which contain eggs). The goal is to get pollen from one flower to the pistil of another flower of the same species.

Think of pollen like a love letter that needs to be delivered from one plant to another. Bees, butterflies, and wind are like the postal service, carrying these microscopic messages between flowers.

When pollen reaches the right pistil, it travels down to fertilise the eggs, creating seeds. These seeds then grow into new plants. This is why bees are so important — they're basically running a matchmaking service for plants while collecting nectar for themselves.

The Clone Army Approach

Many plants also use **1**, which means they can create copies of themselves without needing pollen from another plant. Strawberry plants send out long shoots called **1** that grow new strawberry plants at the end. Potato plants grow new potatoes underground that can sprout into separate plants.

Some plants, like spider plants, grow tiny baby plants right on their stems. These eventually drop off and take root nearby. It's rather like having a bunch of mini-versions of yourself growing on your arms!

Sneaky Survival Strategies

Plants have evolved brilliant ways to spread their seeds far and wide. Some seeds have wings or fluffy parachutes to catch the wind. Others are wrapped in tasty fruit so animals will eat them and deposit the seeds elsewhere in their droppings. Maple seeds helicopter through the air, while coconuts can float across oceans.

Even more remarkably, some plants can reproduce both ways. They'll produce flowers and seeds when conditions are good, but if times get tough, they'll switch to making clones of themselves. It's like having a backup plan for ensuring the species survives, no matter what challenges come their way.