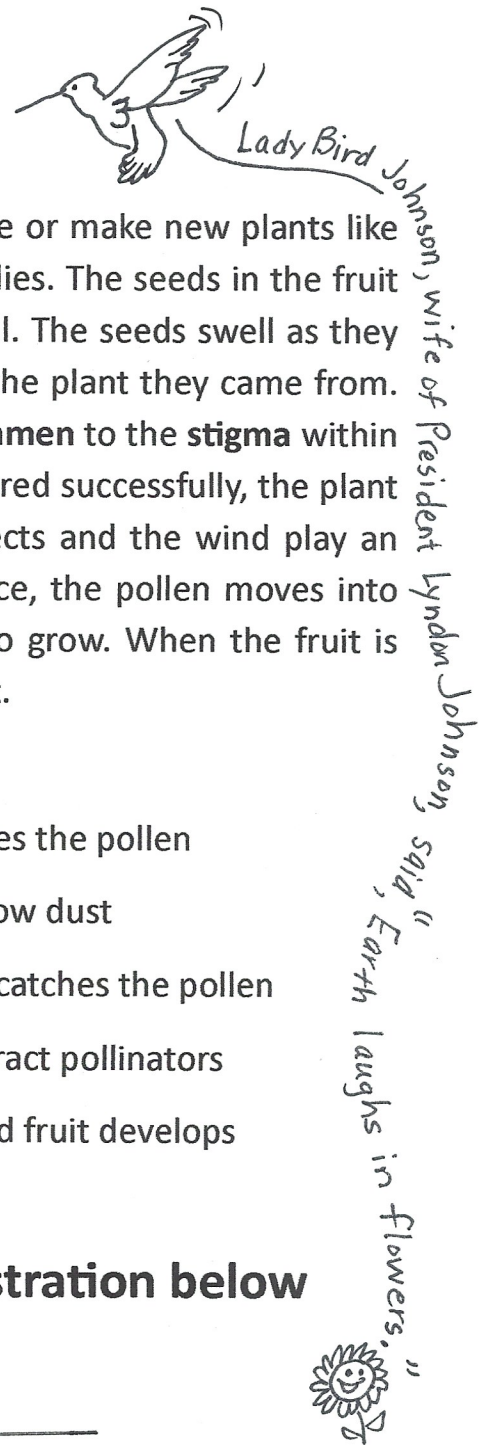


Fascinating Flowers



Fruit-eating birds can help flowering plants to reproduce or make new plants like themselves. Birds eat the fruit which passes through their bodies. The seeds in the fruit are moved to another place by birds and dropped into the soil. The seeds swell as they are watered by rains and begin to grow into new plants, like the plant they came from. Flowers produce **pollen** which needs to be moved from the **stamen** to the **stigma** within the same flower or another flower. If this pollen is not transferred successfully, the plant cannot reproduce. Pollinators like nectar drinking birds, insects and the wind play an important role in moving pollen. Once this transfer takes place, the pollen moves into the **ovary**, the flower **petals** drop away and the fruit starts to grow. When the fruit is mature or fully grown, it contains the seeds of a newborn plant.

Parts of a flower

- Stamen** – small stalks with an enlarged tip that produces the pollen
- Pollen** – very tiny grains that often appear like fine yellow dust
- Stigma** - sticky part on top of a large middle stalk that catches the pollen
- Petal** – specialized leaves with scents and colors to attract pollinators
- Ovary** – chambers where the pollen is transformed and fruit develops

Label the parts of the flower in the illustration below

