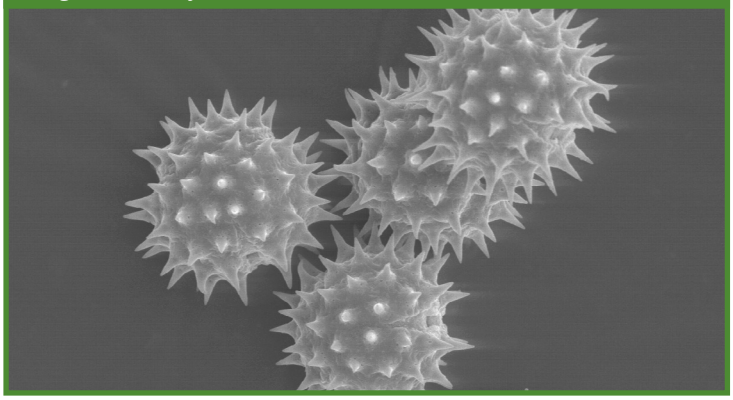
FREE RESOURCES

Pictures for talk in primary science

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



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 the picture will support them with learning 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 on page 10 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 a sunflower and a bee – see 'sunflower-and bees' and 'close up bee and sunflower'. The latter shows the bee touching the pollen on the stamens. 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 AND PROMOTE THINKING AND EXPLAINING

Why do you think they have spikes?

What else might they be like?

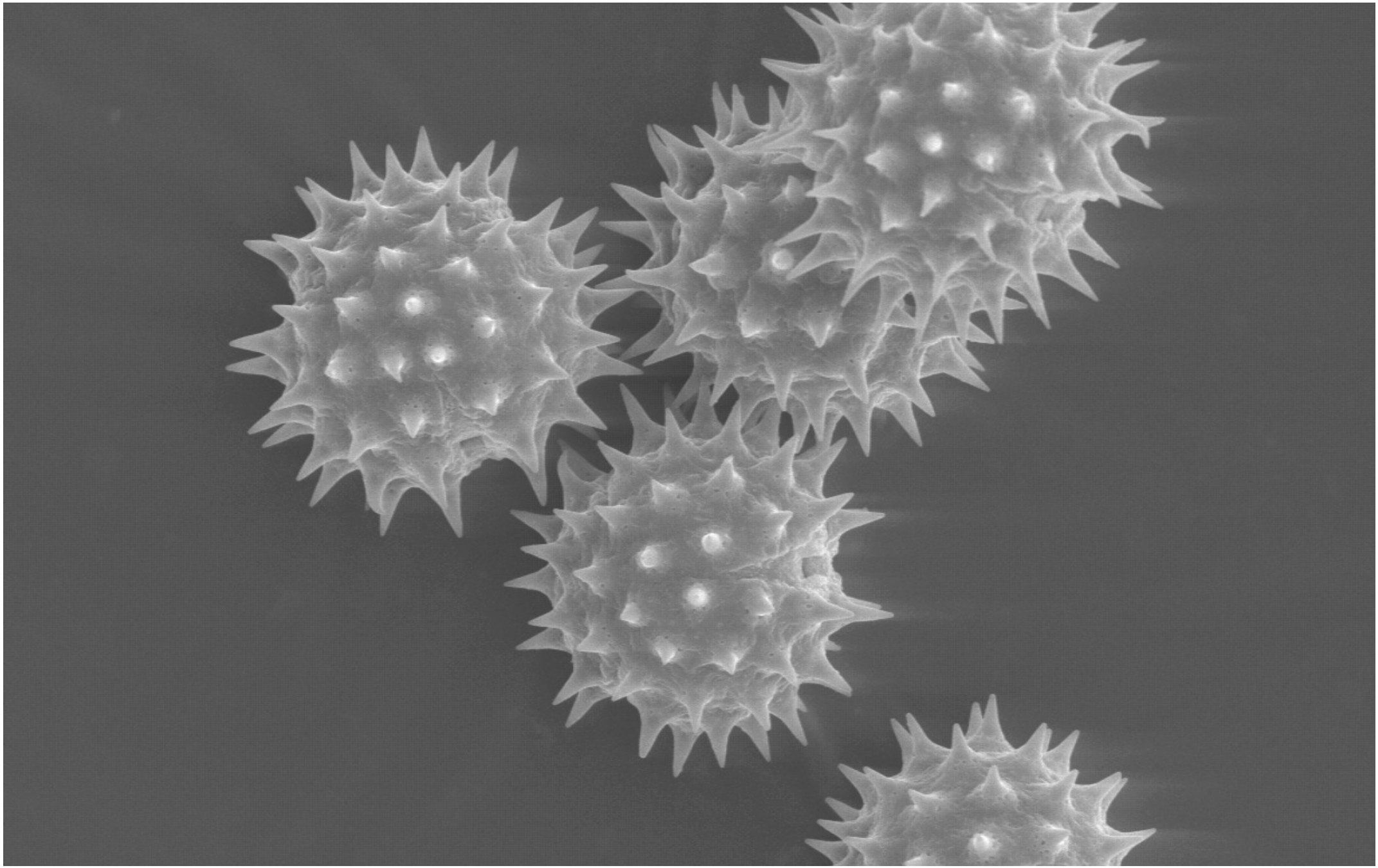
Why is the bee visiting the flower? What does it want?

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?

Sunflower and bees

Close up bee and sunflower



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