Spring Science with Bea the Bee

Learning objective: To understand the biological and environmental changes that occur during the spring season, including plant life cycles and animal behaviors.

Read the front of each card to test your knowledge about spring. Flip the card to check your understanding of the seasonal changes Bea the Bee has been observing in the garden.

What is the name of the process where a seed begins to sprout and grow into a new plant?	**Why do many deciduous trees grow new leaves in the spring?**
Germination	To absorb more sunlight for photosynthesis as the days get longer.
Bea the Bee visits flowers to collect nectar; what is the name of the process where she carries pollen from one flower to another?	**What happens to the amount of daylight in the UK during the spring months?**
Pollination	The days become longer as the Earth's tilt causes the Northern Hemisphere to lean closer to the Sun.
Many animals that slept through the winter are waking up. What is the scientific term for this long, deep winter sleep?	**During spring, the temperature rises. How does this affect the activity levels of cold-blooded animals like frogs?**
Hibernation	They become more active because their metabolism increases with the warmth of their environment.
What is the main source of energy that triggers plant growth in the spring?	**In the UK, spring begins around the Vernal Equinox. What does 'equinox' mean?**
Sunlight (Solar energy)	A time when day and night are of approximately equal length.
How does the 'life cycle' of a flowering plant change in spring?	**Why is spring considered a critical time for biodiversity in a garden?**
The plant moves from a dormant seed stage into the growth and reproductive stage, eventually producing flowers and seeds.	It is a time of rapid growth, hatching, and new births, creating a surge in the variety of living organisms active in the ecosystem.