

Reproduction in Angiospermophytes

Stephen Taylor

Bandung International School

The Flower is the reproductive unit of an angiospermophyte

Is this flower a monocot or a dicot? How do you know?

Label the parts:

Petal

Stigma

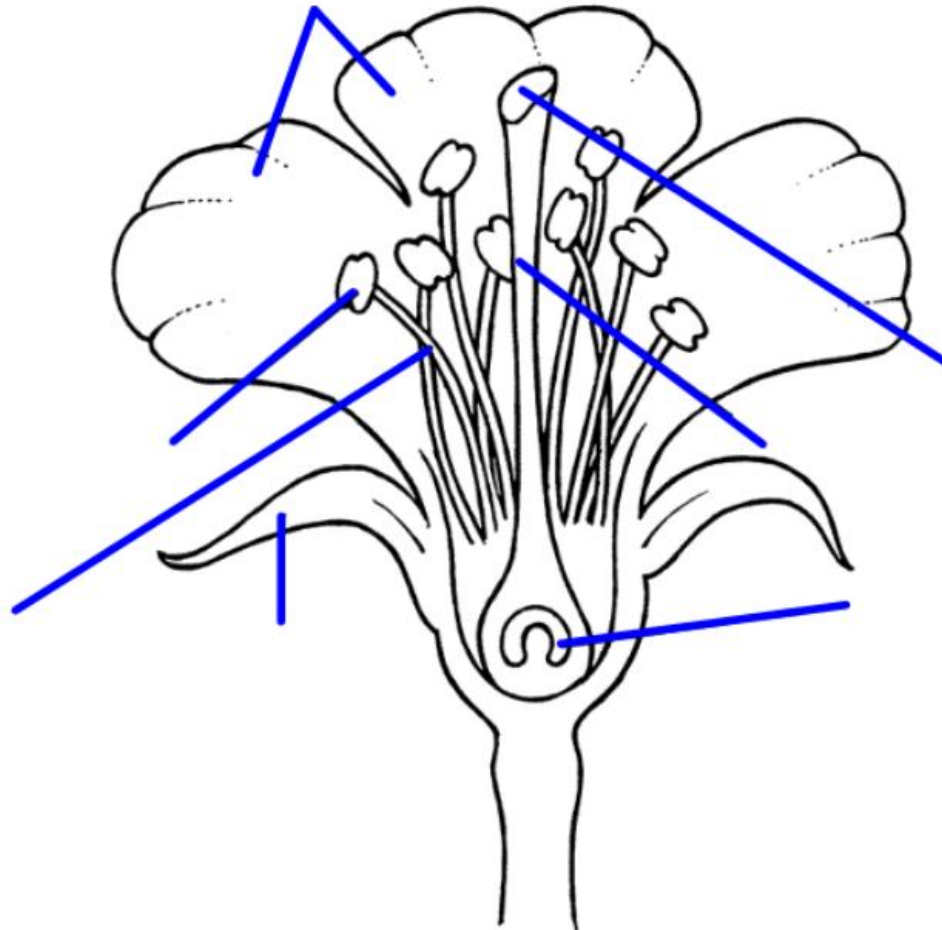
Style

Anther

Filament

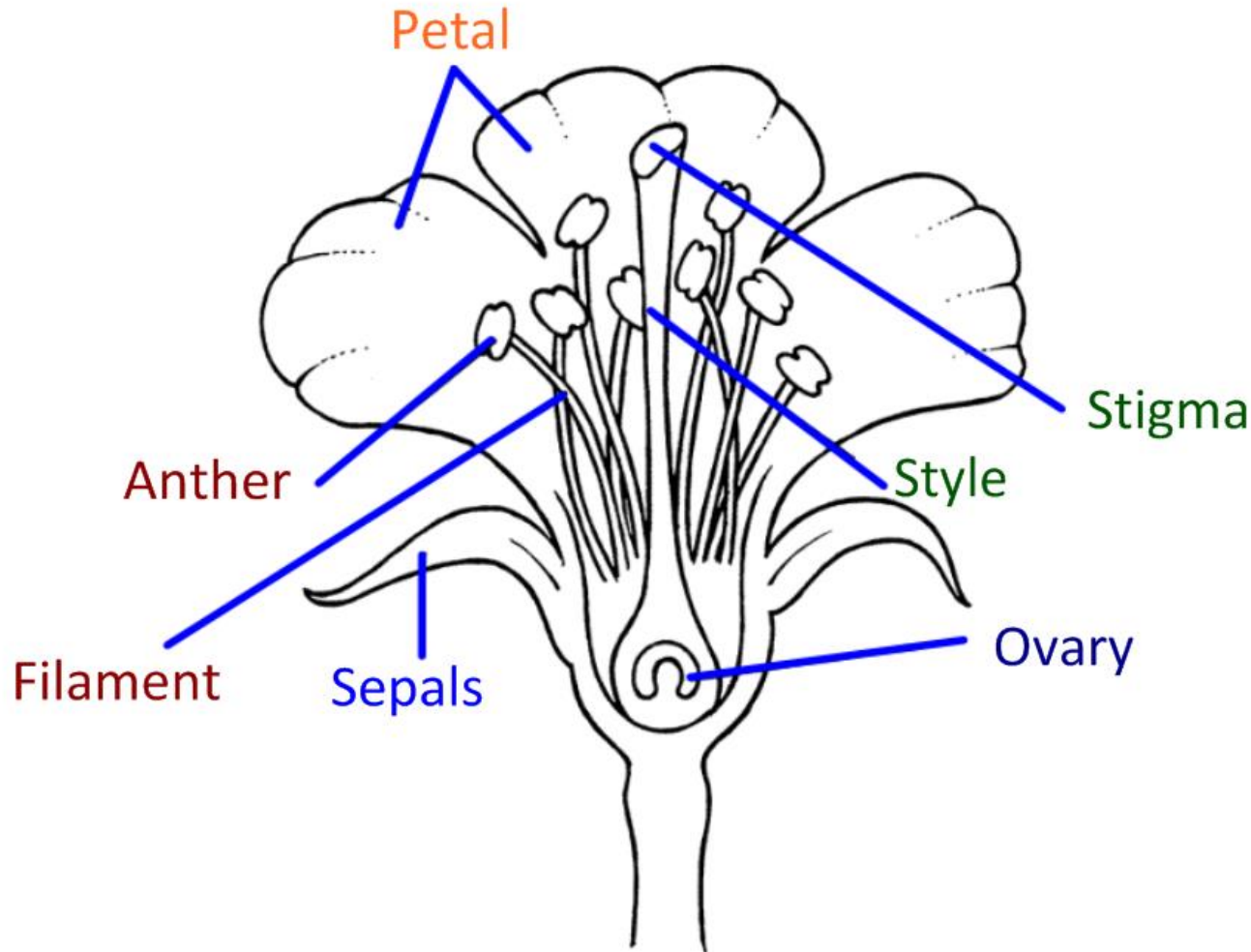
Sepals

Ovary



The Flower is the reproductive unit of an angiospermophyte

Which parts would you consider 'male' or 'female'?



Add the functions:

attracts pollinators
(insects/ small birds)

pollen landing site

pollen tube grows down
style from stigma to ovary

contains ovules

cover/protect
developing flower

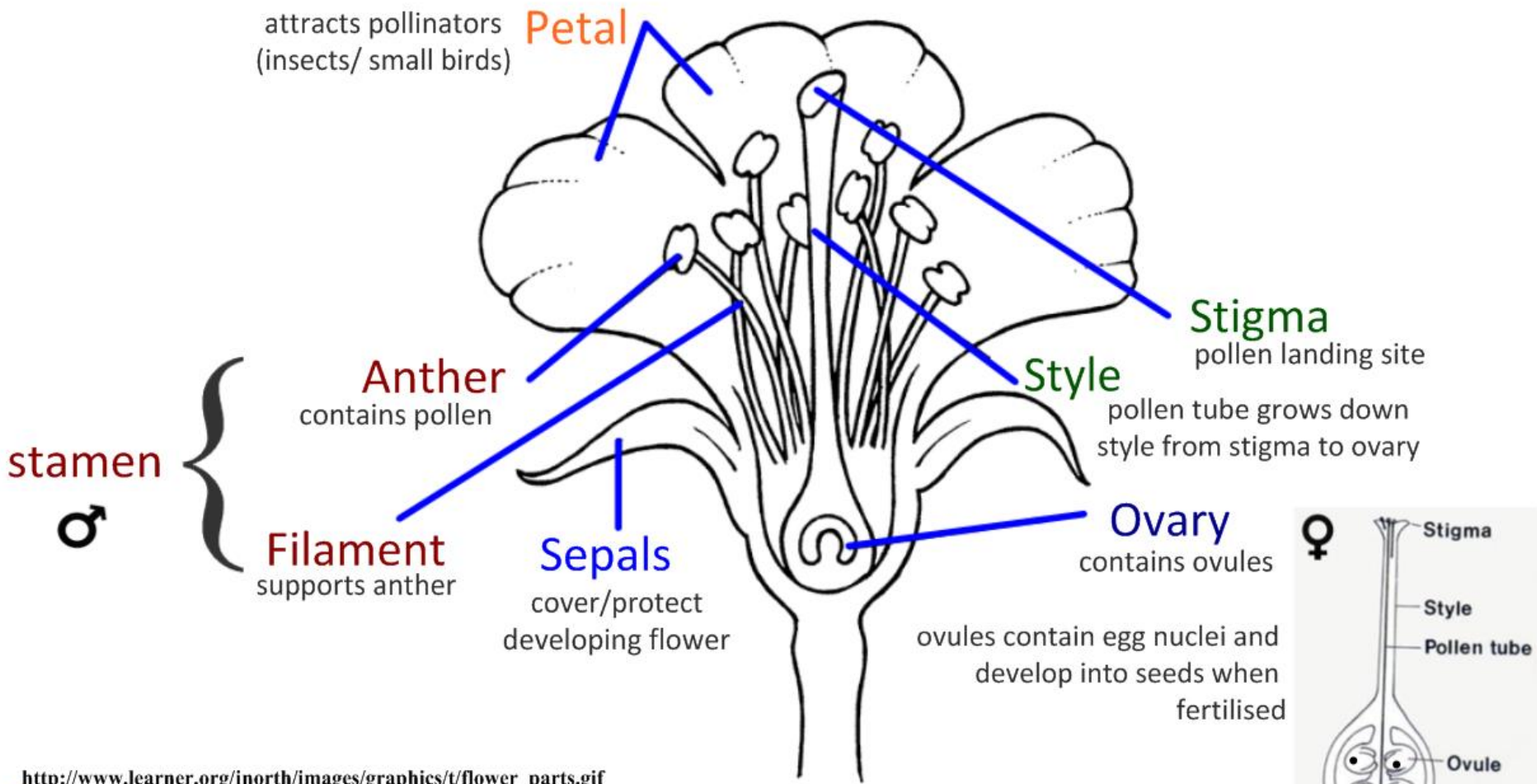
supports anther

contains pollen



The Flower is the reproductive unit of an angiospermophyte

Which parts would you consider 'male' or 'female'?



http://www.learner.org/jnorth/images/graphics/t/flower_parts.gif

<http://www.apsnet.org/Education/illustratedGlossary/PhotosN-R/ovule.htm>

The process of reproduction in angiosperms

pollination



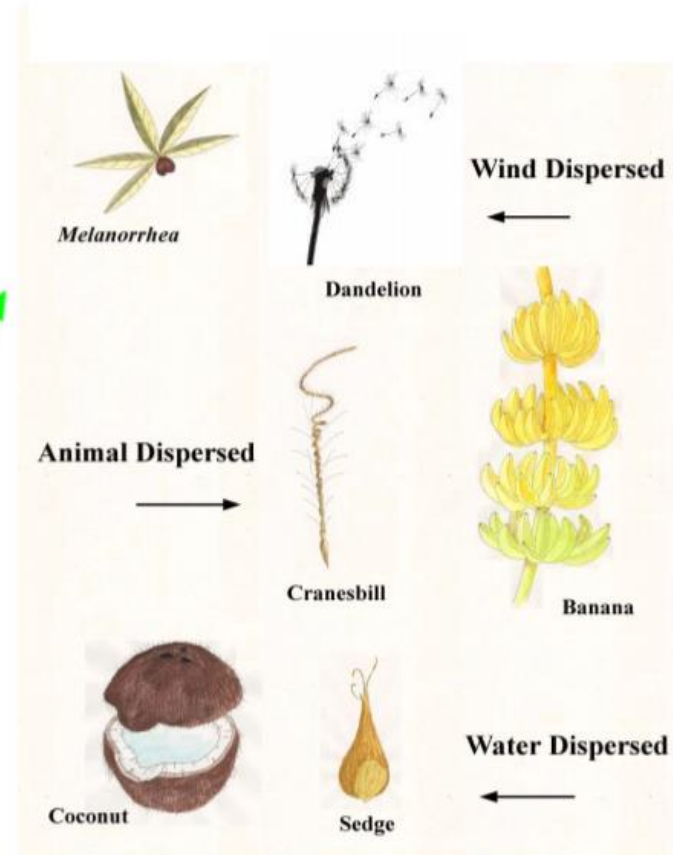
Pollen carried from anther of one flower to stigma of another

fertilisation

Pollen tube grows down from the stigma to the ovary, through the style. Pollen is delivered to the ovum and fertilisation occurs.

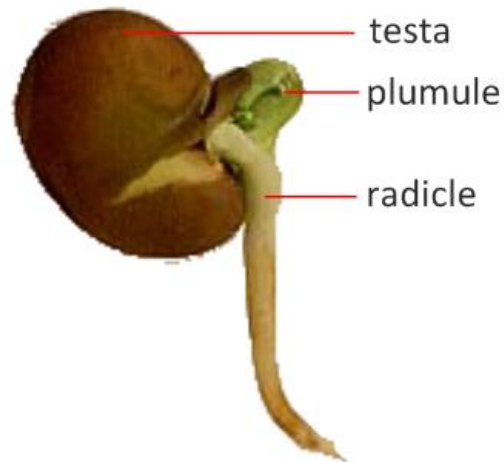
seed dispersal

Once the seed has developed in the ovule, it is ready for dispersal



Dicotyledonous seeds

Which part of the seed lets us know that it is a dicot?

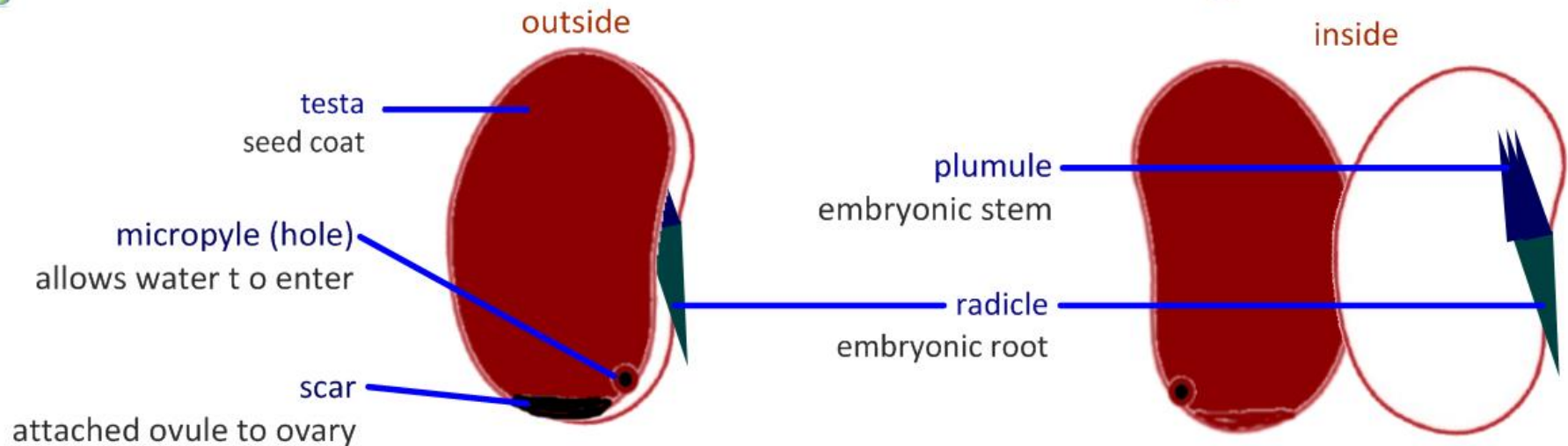


<http://www.dkimages.com/discover/previews/923/5021802.JPG>

e.g. green bean seed



<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/vol1/beej-1-3.aspx>



Germination: development of the new plant

Ideal conditions for germination:

All seeds need **water** (taken in through the micropyle and used to activate the seed), **oxygen** for respiration, ideal **temperatures** and **pH** for enzyme activity.

Light requirements differ between species.

Some seeds have extra, more specialised conditions:

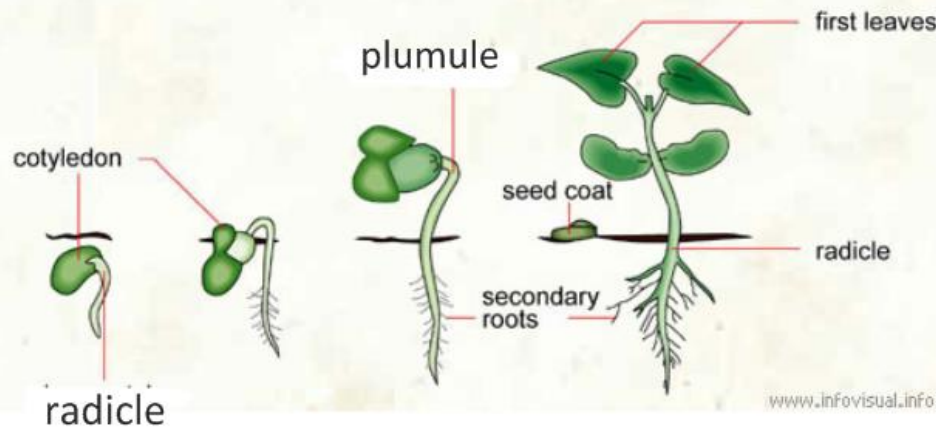
Being digested and passed: kleingrass, digested by cattle

Removal of inhibitors by 'washing' (e.g. beans)

Fire (induced by smoke): e.g. *Cistus incanus*



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d26AhcKeEbE>



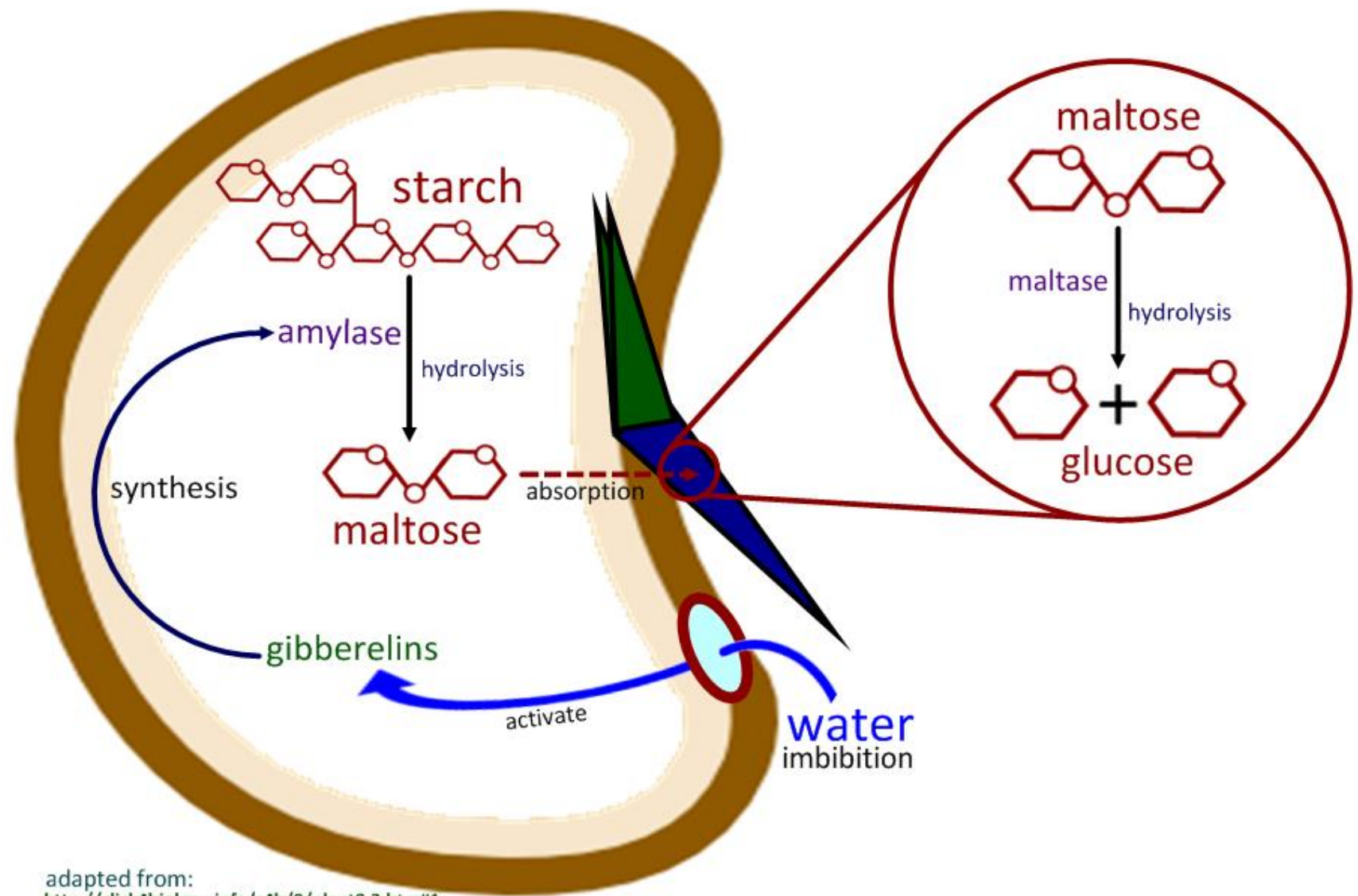
http://www.infovisual.info/01/020_en.html

Cistus incanus



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cistaceae>

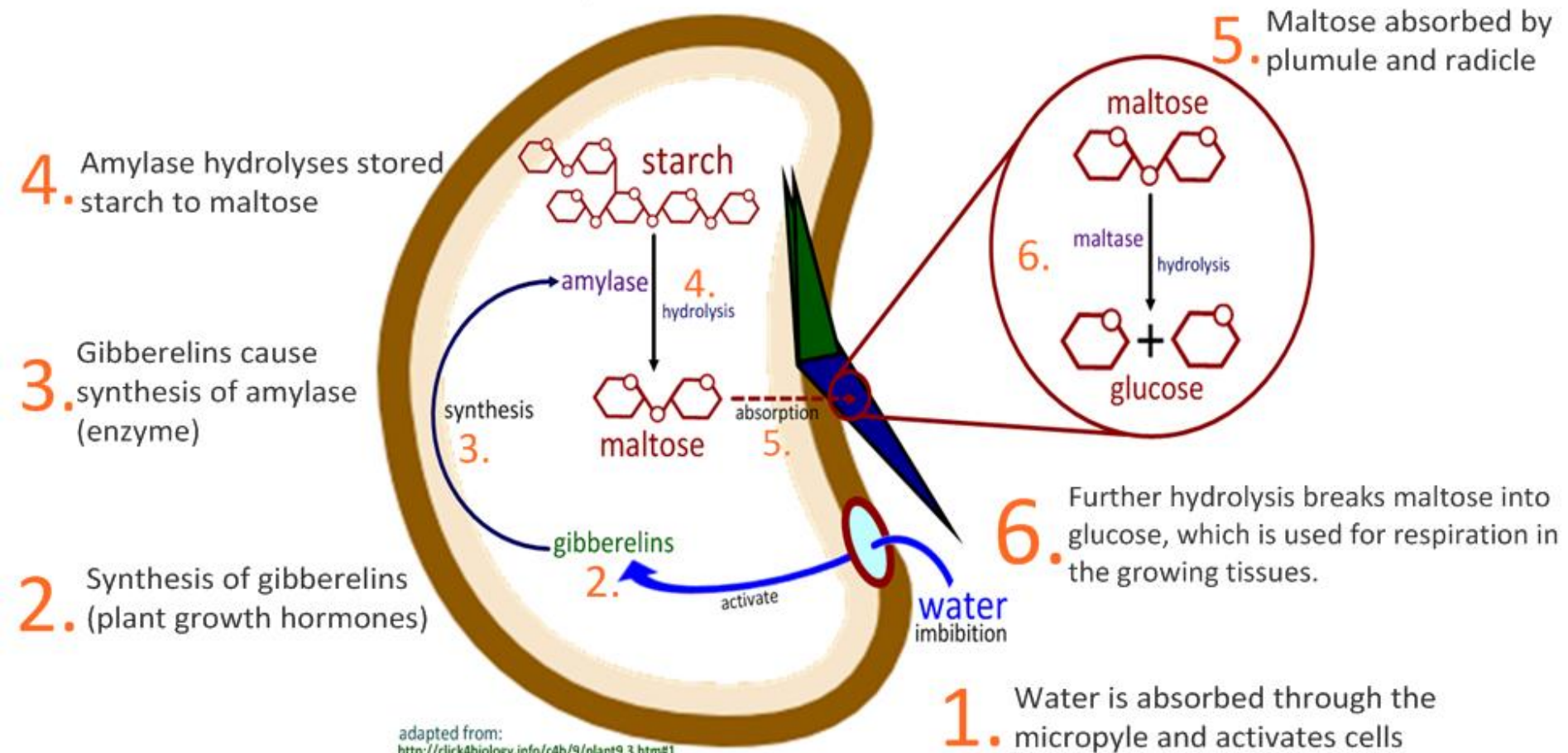
Germination of starchy seeds



adapted from:
<http://click4biology.info/c4b/9/plant9.3.htm#1>

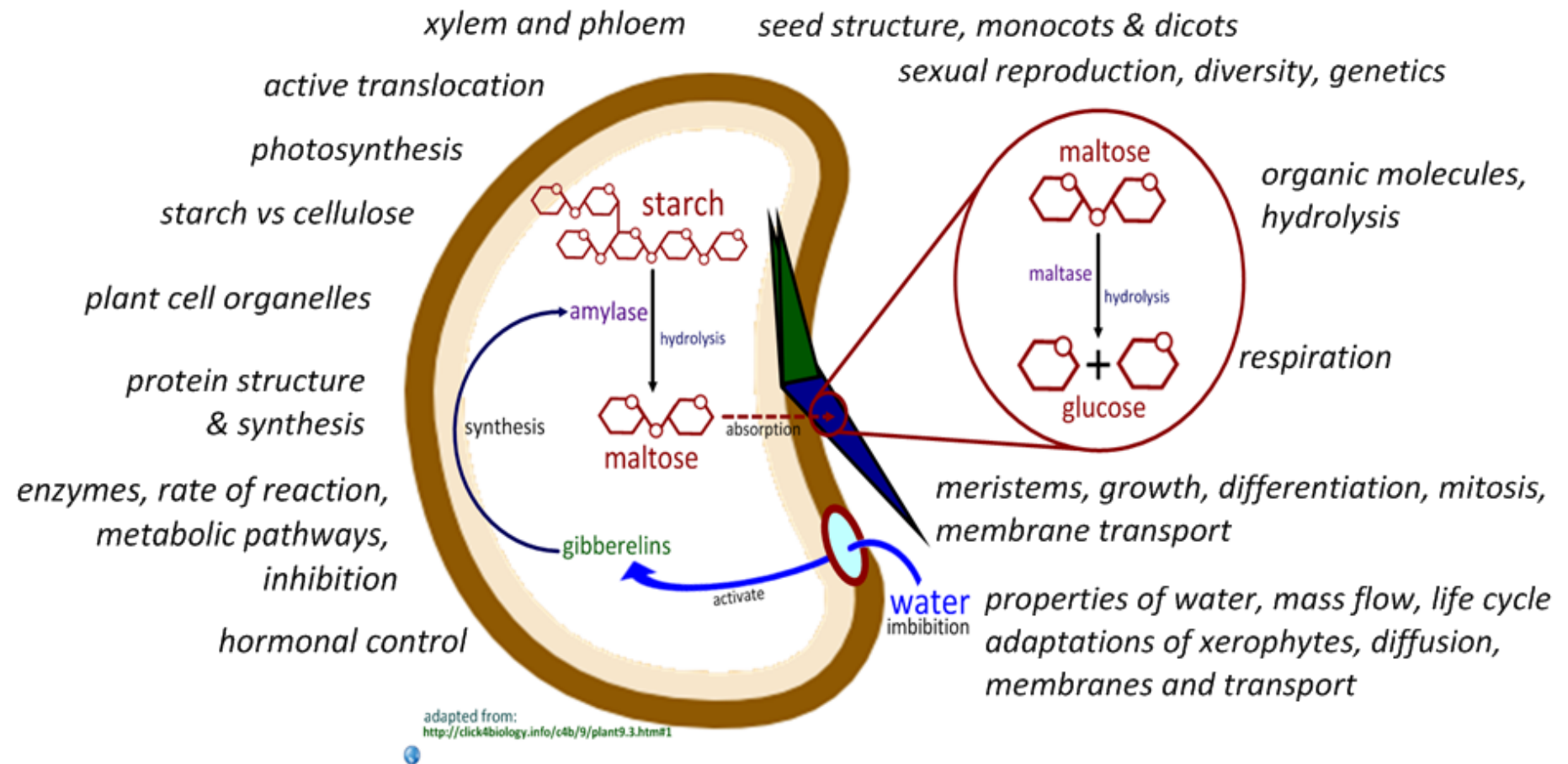


Germination of starchy seeds



Bean there, done that...

How many links across the syllabus can you make with this diagram?

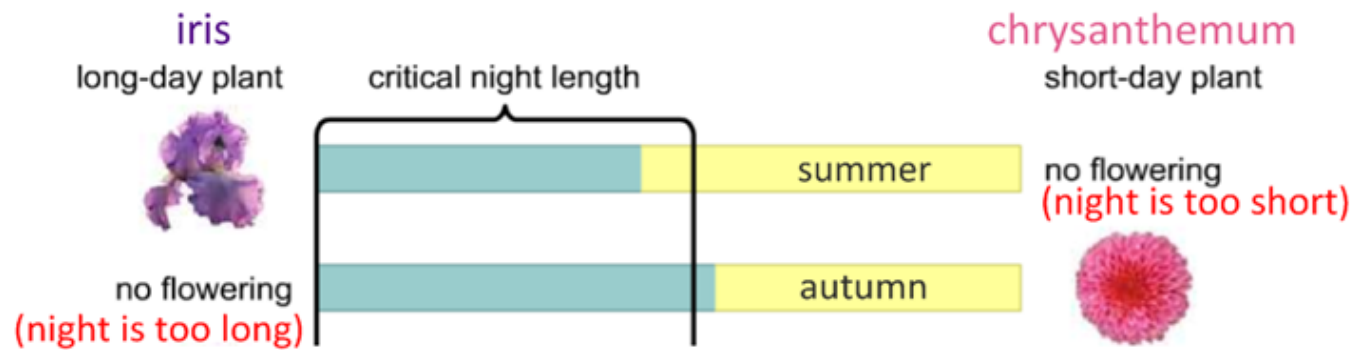


Control of Flowering

Why do plants only flower at certain times of the year?

The purpose of flowering is to allow for **pollination**, fertilisation and consequent seed dispersal.

Flowers should only bloom when a suitable pollinator is abundant - these species show seasonal population shifts. Some plants (e.g. **irises**) bloom in **long-day conditions** (summer), whereas others (e.g. **chrysanthemums**) bloom in **short-day conditions** (autumn-winter).



http://trc.ucdavis.edu/biosci10v/bis10v/media/ch19/day_length.swf

The control of flowering is achieved through a process called **photoperiodism**. The critical factor is not actually **day-length** - it is **night-length**.

Phytochromes

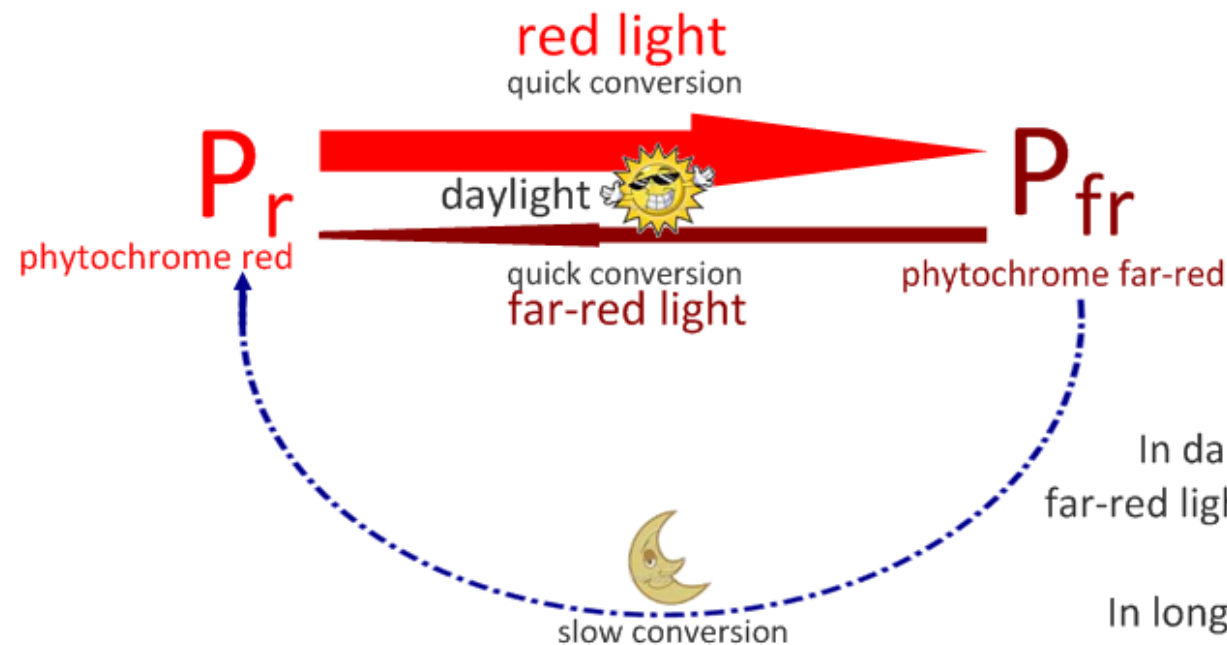
Phytochromes are leaf pigments which can be used to 'measure' the length of night.



P_r phytochrome red
produced slowly in the dark

P_{fr} phytochrome far-red
produced quickly in the daylight

It is levels of P_{fr} that are used in determining the length of night - Long Day Plants (LDP's) need high levels of P_{fr} if they are to bloom; Short Day Plants (SDP's) need low levels of P_{fr} .

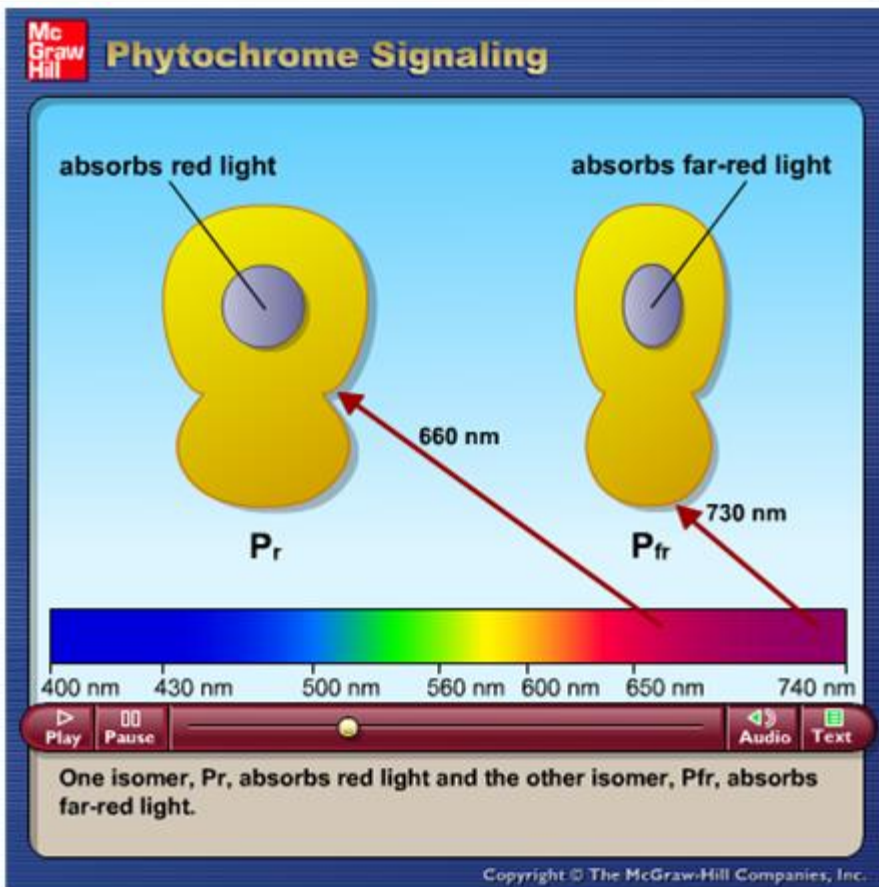


In daylight, there is a lot of red light from the sun (660nm wavelength). Some (not much) far-red light is also present (730nm).

In darkness, there is neither red light nor far-red light. P_{fr} is slowly converted back to P_r .

In long nights, lots of P_{fr} is converted to P_r .

Phytochrome signalling controls plant flowering

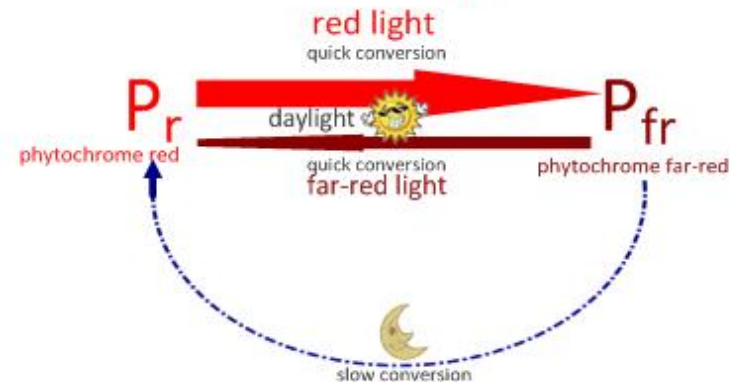


http://glencoe.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/9834092339/student_view0/chapter41/animation_-_phytochrome_signaling.html

Phytochromes are plant pigments located in the leaf, which act as a biological clock. They measure night length in order to control flowering.

P_r is converted **quickly** to P_{fr} in daylight.

P_{fr} is converted **slowly** back to P_r in darkness.

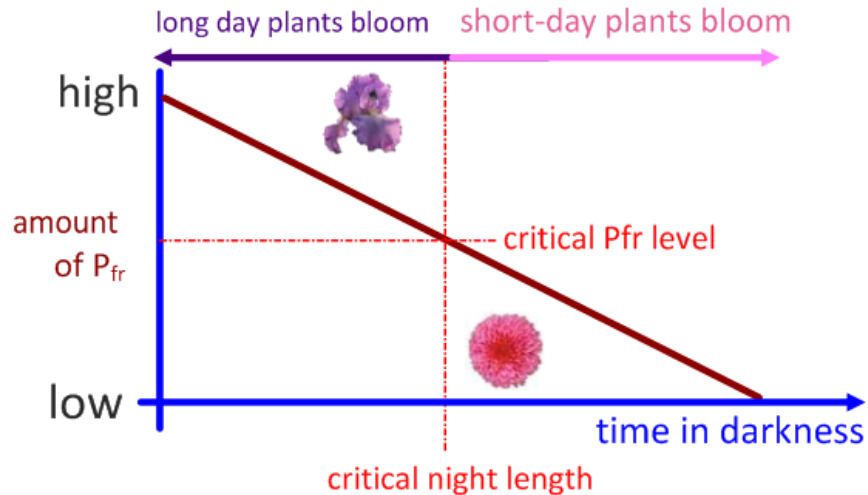


Long-day plants, e.g. iris, flower when day length reaches a critical period. This allows P_{fr} to **build up to a critical level**, stimulating release of flowering hormone.

Short-day plants, e.g. chrysanthemum, require a long period of darkness, allowing P_{fr} to **fall below a critical level** in order to flower.

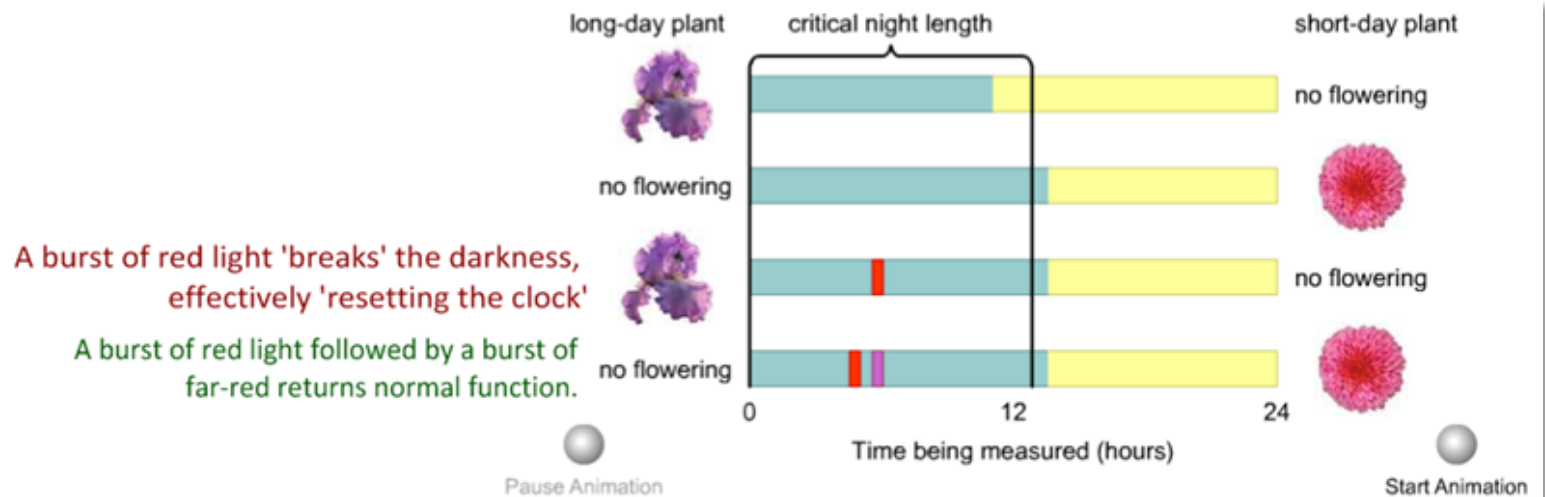
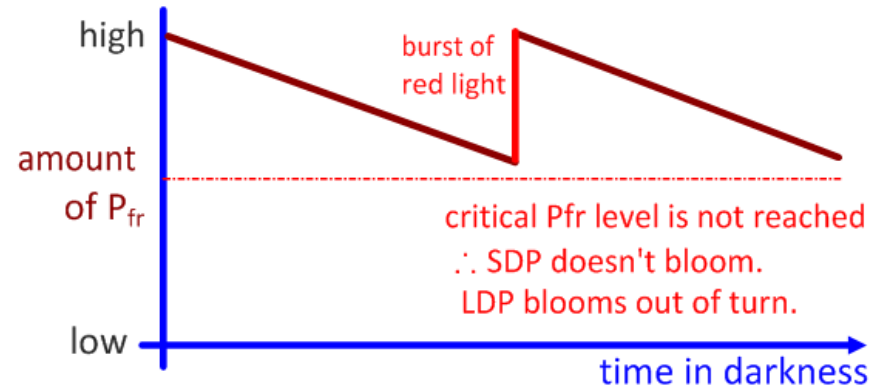
The role of phytochromes has been determined experimentally:

Normal light conditions:



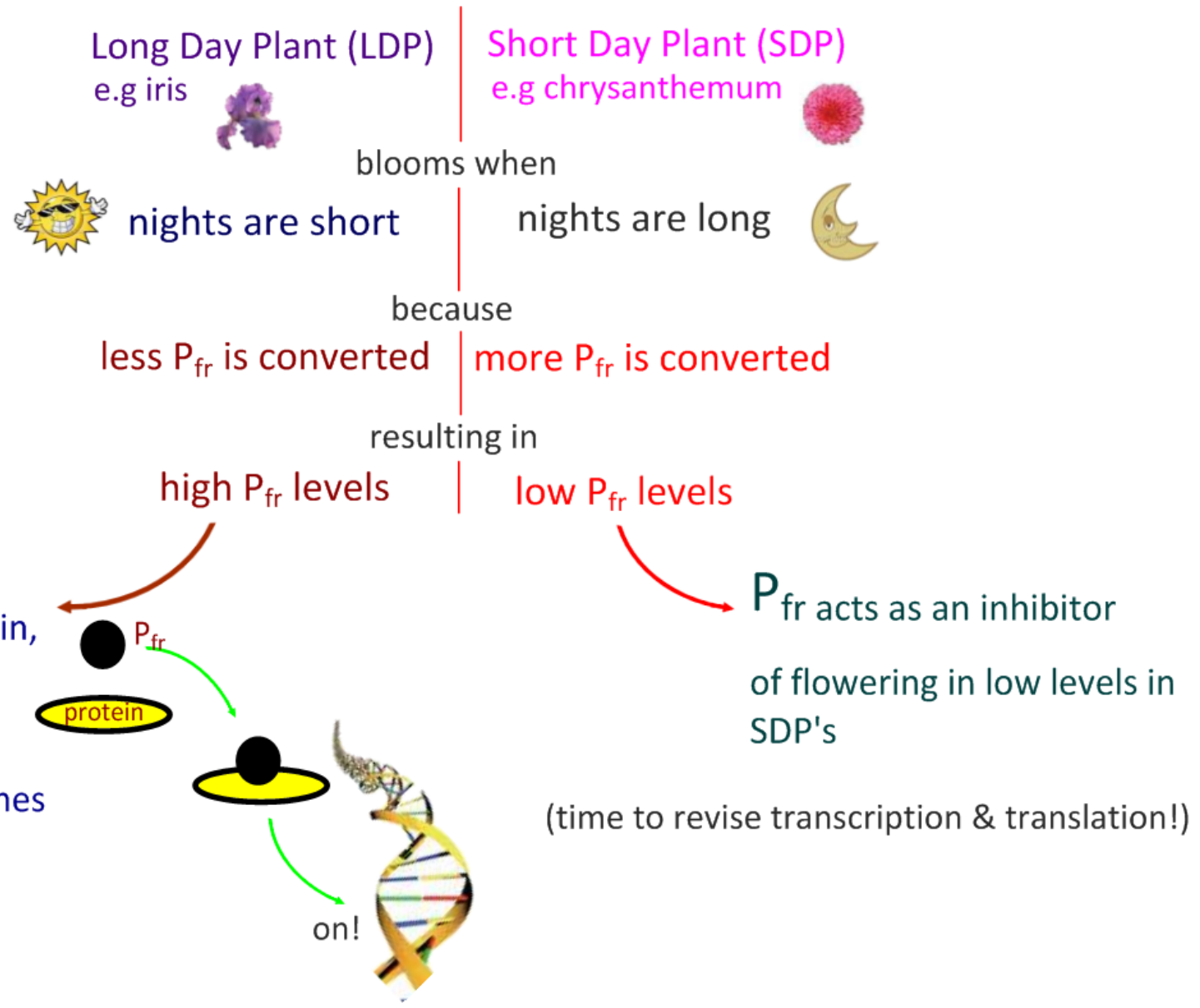
"Red Burst" experiment:

A burst of red light 'breaks' the darkness, effectively 'resetting the clock'



Experiments showing that short-day plants flower by measuring night length. Click Start Animation. The red band shows a burst of red light. The purple band shows a burst of far-red light. http://trc.ucdavis.edu/biosci10v/bis10v/media/ch19/day_length.swf

So, err.... how does that work again?

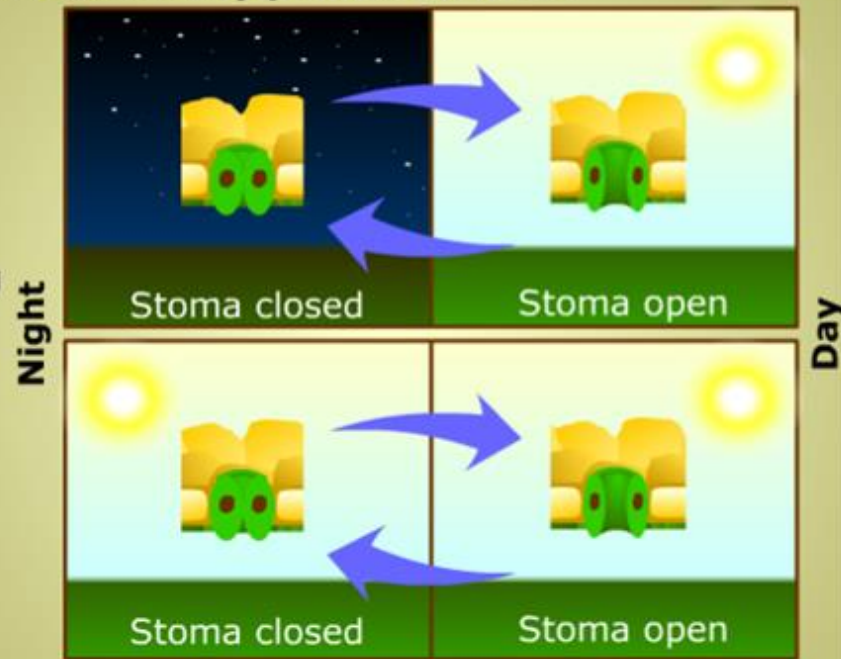


Circadian rhythms don't just affect flowering in plants:

Circadian rhythms in plants control many plant activities.

Circadian rhythms in plants control:

- Gene expression
- Leaf and petal movements
- Release of floral fragrances
- Stomata opening and closing
- Metabolic activities



http://www.ucopenaccess.org/courses/CPBiology/bio_5_3_2_3.swf



For more IB Biology resources:
<http://sciencevideos.wordpress.com>

Photo by Stephen Taylor. Creative Commons.