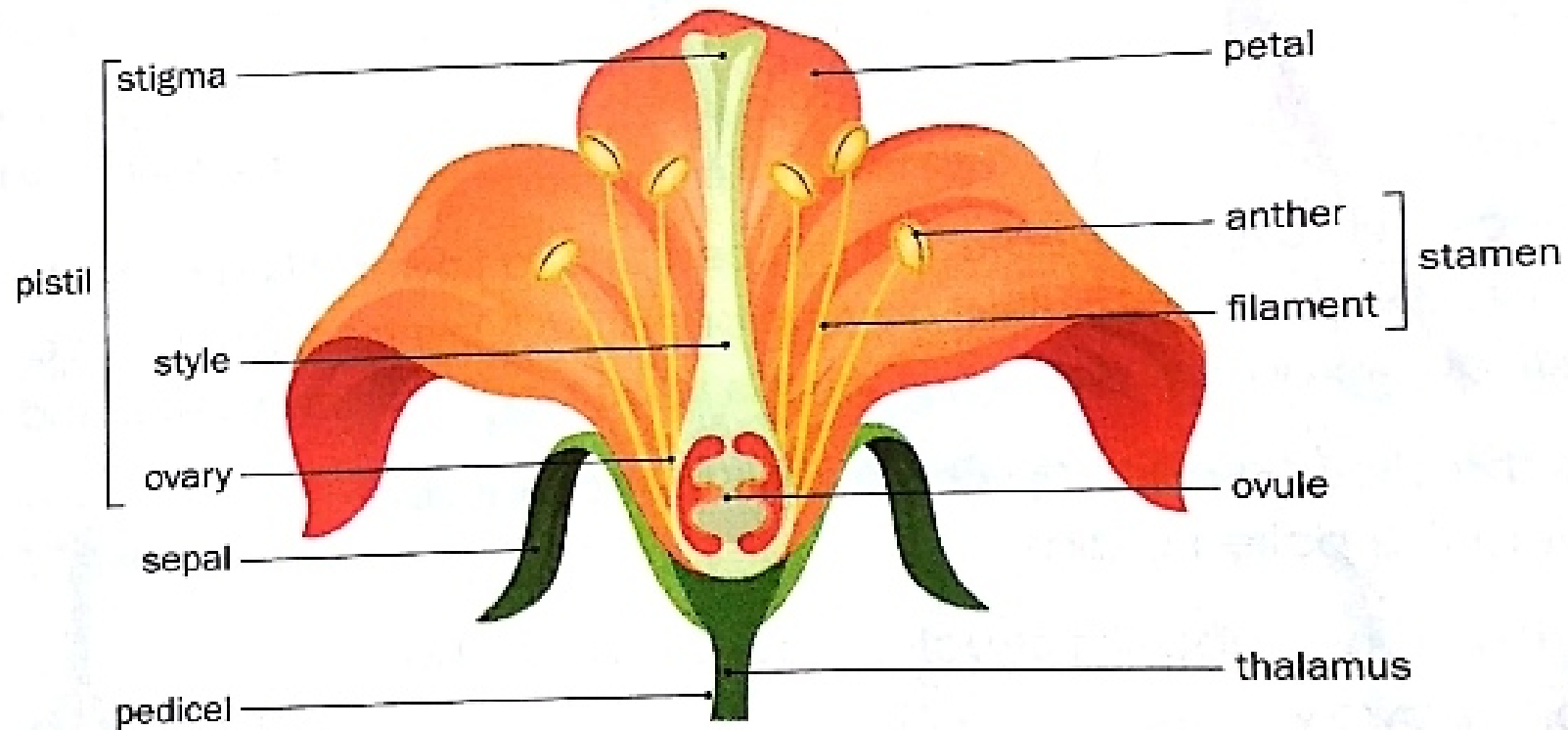




POLLINATION

PARTS OF A FLOWER

A flower generally contains four parts: calyx, corolla, androecium, and gynoecium. These are also called the four whorls of a flower. The stalk of a flower is called the pedicel. The swollen end of the pedicel is called the thalamus. Let us study about the different parts of a flower.



Parts of a flower

Calyx

The outermost whorl of a flower is called the **calyx**. It contains a set of green leaf-like structures called **sepals**. There may be five or more sepals in a flower.

Function The main function of sepals is to protect the flower in the bud stage. They can also prepare food for the plant.

Corolla

The second whorl of a flower is called the corolla. It generally consists of a ring of brightly coloured leaf-like structures called petals.

Function Since petals are generally brightly coloured, they attract insects that help in pollination. They may also produce different scents to attract insects towards the flower.

Androecium

The third whorl of a flower is the **androecium**. It is the collection of stamens. Each stamen has a long slender stalk called **filament**. An **anther** is present at the tip of the stamen. Anthers produce dust-like particles called **pollen grains**. Pollen grains contain the male gametes or male reproductive cells.

Function The stamen is the male reproductive unit of a flower. Stamens of the flower are collectively called **androecium**.



Stamen—Male reproductive part of plant

Gynoecium

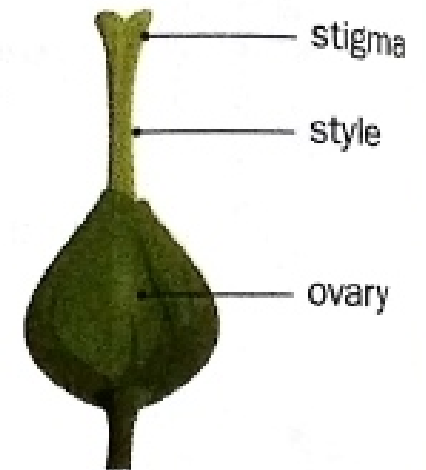
The gynoecium is usually located at the centre of a flower. It is a collection of the female reproductive units called carpels or pistils. A gynoecium may consist of a single pistil or a group of pistils. A pistil has three parts—stigma, style, and ovary.

Stigma is the sticky, swollen tip of the pistil. It is responsible for receiving the pollen grains.

Style is a thin, long, tube-like structure that connects the stigma to the ovary.

Ovary is the swollen base of the pistil. It contains ovules. The ovules contain eggs or the female gametes.

Function After fertilization, the ovary forms the fruit of the plant, whereas the ovules form the seeds.



Carpel—Female reproductive part of plant