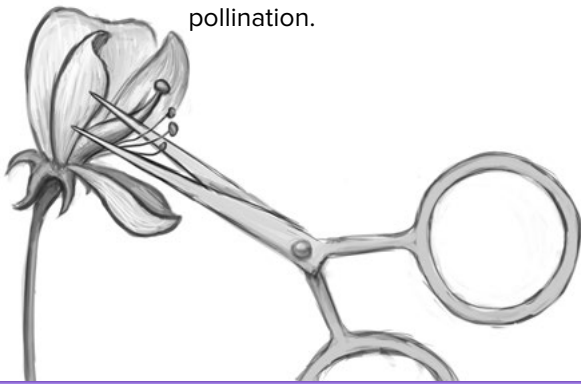


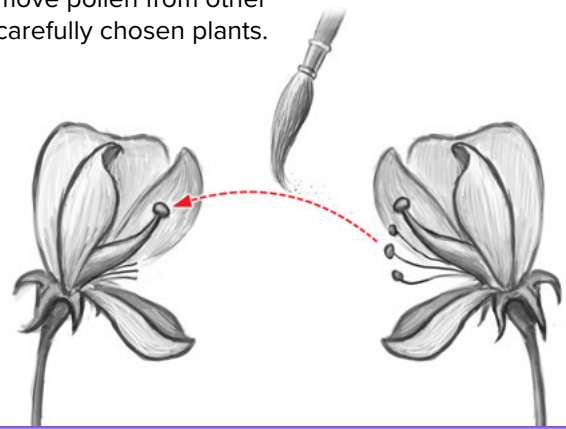
## Mendel messes with Mother Nature

Starting with what he knew about pea plant fertilization, Mendel developed a clever strategy for studying **heredity** in the plants. Basically, he took over the job of the bees!

Mendel snipped off the stamens of plants he chose to fertilize, to prevent self-pollination.



Then he used a brush to move pollen from other carefully chosen plants.



Mendel controlled which of his pea plants bred with which. He kept records of what **traits** the starting parent plants had and what **traits** later **generations** had. He focused on certain features: flower color, stem length, and pea pod shape. Each of these features had two possible **traits**:

Flowers were either  
**PURPLE** or **WHITE**.



Stems were either  
**LONG** or **SHORT**.



Pods were either  
**SMOOTH** or **BUMPY**.

