



1 A pollen-laden female wasp enters an unripe fig.



2 The wasp pollinates the flowers and lays her eggs.



3 Flowers with wasp galls, and larvae form galls, and some other flowers produce seeds.



4 Male wasps leave the galls first and fertilize the females. The males will die before leaving the fig.



5 Females then leave their galls and collect pollen from mature male flowers within the fig.



6a Females exit the fig through a tunnel and search for another fruit where they will lay a new generation of eggs.



7 Females without pollen will still enter another unripe fig, where they will lay their eggs. But without being pollinated, the fig will not grow seeds and may be aborted by the tree. Any offspring in the dropped fig will die.



6b In some cases, though, females exit the fig without first collecting pollen.

