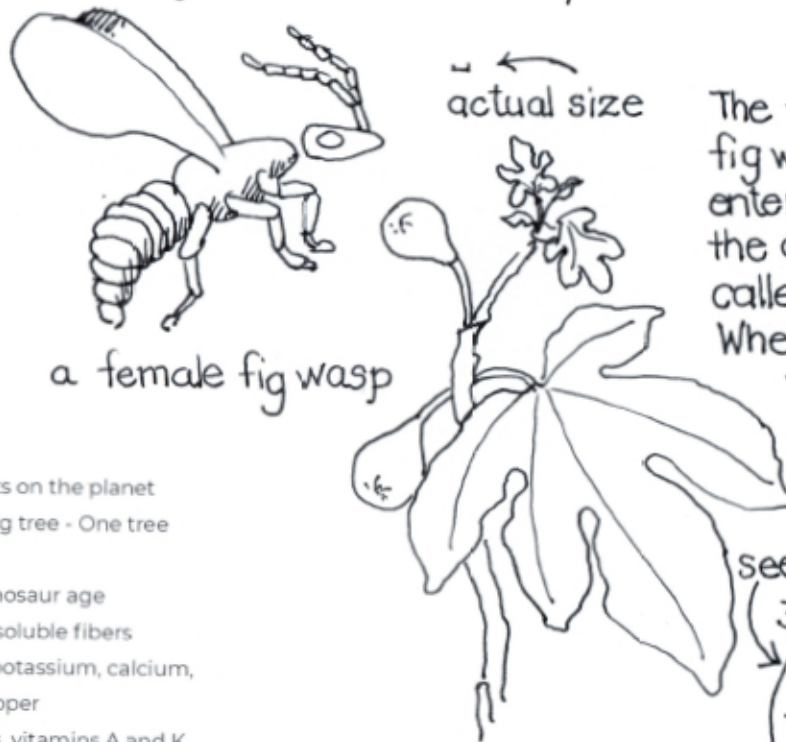


A story 75,000,000 years old.
The fig is technically not a fruit ~ they are inverted flowers!

Ff

Figs:

- Are a super food
- Most varied species of plants on the planet
- A Banyon Tree is a type of fig tree - One tree in India spans 4 acres.
- Were around during the dinosaur age
- High in natural sugars and soluble fibers
- Rich in minerals including potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, and copper
- Good source of antioxidants, vitamins A and K
- They have the highest mineral & fiber content of all common fruits, nuts or vegetables.
- Over 750 Ficus species in the world, native all across the globe
- Nearly every species of fig tree is pollinated by its own wasp.
- The average fig wasp is less than 2 mm long.
- Female wasps travels miles and miles in less than 48 hours to lay her eggs in another fig, - a truly heroic journey.
- Are a keystone species in many rainforests producing fruit all year long and are an important food source for 1,000's of animals
- Some grow into trees, vines, shrubs and even epiphyte (a plant that grows on another plant such as an orchid).



750 different species

MUTUALISM:

The fig cannot live without the wasp and the wasp cannot live without the fig.

Male fig (inedible)

Female fig

1. The female fig wasp enters through the opening called the ostiole.

When she enters the fig her antennae and wings fall off. She has pollen on her legs.



2. She pollinates the flowers and lays her eggs.

seed



3. Flowers with a wasp larva form galls.



4. Males hatch first and fertilize the females.



5. When the female wasps hatch they collect pollen.



6. The male wasp has no eyes, no wings or antennae. He never leaves the fig.

After fertilizing the females he digs a tunnel so the females can fly away. As soon as he reaches the opening he dies.

* Enzymes in the fig dissolve dead wasps.