

Instructions

Ask students:

- What seeds are and what they do – ask for examples.
- Is there a reason for so many different types of seeds? (*Every type of plant has a special type of seed designed for the plant's particular habitat and method of distribution*).
- Why is it important for the seeds to be dispersed away from the parent plant?
 - Invite them to share different ways they have noticed plants dispersing their seeds – you can even write them on the board.

If they have trouble thinking of various ways, some examples include

- Floats on air (dandelion)
- Floats on water (cranberry)
- Flies through air (maples, ash)
- Bounces or rolls (acorn, pecan, tumbleweed)
- Eaten by animals (cherry, peach)
- Thrown (witch hazel, violet)
- Release/Opened by fire (lodgepole and jack pine)

Activity

Break students into groups (6 max), giving one dispersal card to each group.

Have the students work together and design their own seeds that fits the specialized dispersal mechanism on their given card; these include

- Bounces or rolls at least 6 feet from the parent plant
- Sticks to an animal and can be carried at least 10 feet
- Is thrown at least 2 feet from the parent plant
- Attracts an animal to carry it
- Floats in the air for at least 5 feet
- Eaten by animals
- Floats in the water for at least 5 minutes

They can use a dried lima bean as the base of their design if they choose, and any other materials found *in the box only* (no glue!).

When finished, you can drop their seeds in front of a fan (if you have access) to demonstrate the effect moving air has on various seeds, drop in water, roll, etc. to test their designs..