



DALLAS ARBORETUM

Education

*Garden STEM at Home*  
*Seed Need*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



## OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE SEED ADAPTATIONS BY SORTING THEM BASED ON HOW THEY ARE SPREAD BY THE MOTHER PLANT.

## SOURCE

Project WILD K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide

## BACKGROUND

Most animals are well-adapted to resource scarcity; they can move! Plants, though, don't have that choice. In order to ensure their survival, plants must depend on other methods. One of the most popular is seed dispersal.

Some examples of the most common dispersal methods include by wind (dandelions, maple trees), by water (coconuts, cranberries), in animal fur (burs), through animals' digestive tracts (fruits and seeds), by bursting (wisteria, jewelweed) and through fire (pine species). Each seed, though, is specially-adapted to thrive in a plant's given environment.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Discuss the seed dispersal methods listed above, sharing examples of each. If you can't think of any, explore digital resources to find examples.
2. Watch one of the seed dispersal videos below.
3. Print or create your own Seed Investigation Sheet linked below.
4. Take a nature walk to find examples of seeds that are dispersed in different ways. If you can't collect the seeds, you can draw images or take photos of each. Be sure to indicate where you find it, if any adult plants are around it or if you can identify what it is.
5. Can't get outside? Explore your kitchen, and you're likely to find many great examples!
6. Optional: Use the app iNaturalist to identify any unknown seeds.
7. Questions for discussion: (1) What type of seed dispersal was most common? Why? (2) What if you lived near the ocean? On a prairie? In a forest? What would you most likely find? (3) How can you tell if a seed was dispersed by an animal?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore the Project WILD STEM Resource Guide:

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/step-stem-and-wild-work/seed-need>

Seed Investigation Sheet:

[https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/7715/2944/3147/Seed\\_Investigation\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/7715/2944/3147/Seed_Investigation_Sheet.pdf)

K-2 Seed Song: How Seeds Move:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CCOWHa-qfc>

3-5 Seed Dispersal - the Great Escape:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xY4JFOSuqvY>