How Do Seeds Travel?

3rd Grade · Science

Seed Dispersal · Fall Harvest Science

Name: _____ Date: _____

Seeds on the Move

A plant cannot walk, but its seeds can still travel! If every seed fell right under its parent plant, the young plants would have to share the same sunlight, water, and space. Moving away gives seeds a better chance to grow. Scientists call this **seed dispersal**.

Wind: Dandelion seeds have fluffy tops that float like tiny parachutes. Maple seeds have flat wings that spin like helicopters as they fall.
Water: A coconut is a seed with a thick, air-filled husk. It can float across the ocean and grow on a new beach.
Animals: Burrs have tiny hooks that stick to fur and socks. Birds eat berries, and the seeds pass through and land far away. Squirrels bury acorns to eat later, and the ones they forget can sprout into oak trees.
Pop! Some plants, like jewelweed, grow seed pods that burst open when they are ripe or touched, flinging the seeds away.

Sort the Seeds

Write how each seed travels: **wind**, **water**, **animals**, or **pop**.



1. dandelion fluff _____



2. coconut _____



3. berries _____



4. maple “helicopter” _____



5. acorn _____



6. jewelweed pod _____

Did you know?
The fluffy top on a dandelion seed is called a **pappus**. Even a light breeze can carry it far away from the parent plant. Next time you see a dandelion puff, look closely at each tiny parachute!

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Think Like a Scientist

Name: _____ Date: _____

7. Why is it helpful for seeds to travel away from the parent plant?

_____

_____

_____

8. Which seed part helps a burr travel on an animal?

(A) tiny hooks (B) a fluffy top (C) a thick husk

9. A seed with wings most likely travels by...

(A) water (B) wind (C) popping

Safari Challenge: Design a Seed

Invent a new seed! Draw it in the box. Label the part that helps it travel, and tell how it moves (wind, water, animals, or pop).

Seed Hunt (with a grown-up)

Take a fall walk. Look for seeds on your socks, under trees, and in dried flowers. Can you find one seed for each way seeds travel? Never eat seeds or berries you find outside.

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Answer Key

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1. dandelion fluff — wind
2. coconut — water
3. berries — animals
4. maple “helicopter” — wind
5. acorn — animals
6. jewelweed pod — pop
7. So the new plants do not have to share sunlight, water, and space with the parent plant. Spreading out gives seeds a better chance to grow.
8. A — tiny hooks
9. B — wind

SC Answers will vary. Check that the travel part matches the way it moves.

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