

Fruits, seeds and their dispersal

Teacher Guidance

Activity 4: Design a seed

This activity involves designing a seed, which has come from a newly discovered plant. It stimulates discussion on how the seeds are dispersed as well as providing a link to the topic of germinating and growing seeds (*see booklet 3 - Living processes and what plants need to grow*). It requires some creative thinking and also gives opportunities for developing literacy and presentation skills.

The activity

Suggest to the children that they are going on an expedition to look for new plants and bring back some seeds from these plants.

- Ask the children to make a drawing of the plant they discover and give its name. (You can let them discuss how scientists name new plants when they are found.)
- Review the different ways in which plants can disperse their seeds. Then ask the children to make a magnified drawing of a seed from their plant and explain how they think it is dispersed.
- From their design, let them make an enlarged version of their seed, using junk materials.



1. Seed from the Butterfly Eating Blob Plant. The seed is dispersed by the explosion of the seed pod and it falls gently to the ground because of its feathers. Then legs pop out and it walks away.

2. Seed from the Target Plant. The seed has lots of hooks so it can attach itself to animals.

3. Seed from the Leaf Poison Plant. This seed is an attractive colour to animals who will eat it. It will then pass through the animal's body. The outside of the seed cracks open so that it can start growing when it touches the ground.

4. Seed from the Truncheranium plant. This seed has wheels so when it falls from the parent plant it rolls away and begins to germinate.

Figure 14. Some seeds created by children (in Year 4 at the Cavendish School, in 2004). They collected their seeds on an 'expedition', from newly discovered plants, and then gave descriptions as to how the seeds would be dispersed.

Curriculum links

National Curriculum

KS2: 1b, 3d

QCA Scheme of work

Unit 5B

Scottish ISE 5-14 framework/attainment targets

LT-D2.5