

2nd-3rd Grade

SCIENTISTS ON THE GO

The Seed's Great Escape

There are many kinds of plants in Thurston County and each one adds to the diversity of its habitats. As you explore plants and seeds, think about what makes them unique.

Activity: Head outside to use your observational skills to study a plant. Ask an adult before touching it. Observe the plant and consider the questions below. Then write down your thoughts.

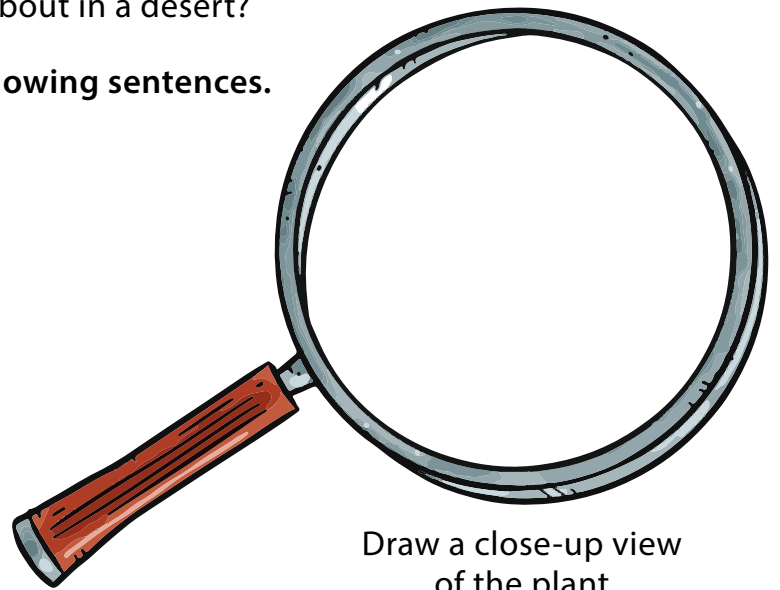
- How deep do you think the roots go?
- What shape are the leaves?
- What does the stem feel like?
- Where on the plant would flowers and seeds grow?
- Could it survive in a tropical climate? How about in a desert?

Look closely at the plant and complete the following sentences.

I notice...

I wonder...

It reminds me of...



Draw a close-up view
of the plant

Have a laugh!

- What has no fingers, but many rings? (A tree)
- What did the big flower say to the small flower? (What's up, bud?)
- What do you give to a sick lemon? (Lemon aid)
- Why did the tree take a nap? (For rest)
- Why did the leaf go to the doctor? (It was feeling green)

We'd love to see your finished activity!

Email a photo to info@wetsciencecenter.org to receive a prize.

Seed Dispersal · The Great Escape

Why do plants have seeds? Most plants grow seeds to make baby plants. To have space to grow, seeds have to move away from their parent plant. This process is called seed dispersal. Plants have developed many ways to disperse their seeds to increase their chances of surviving. Some seeds even have more than one method of dispersal. Which seed dispersal method do you think can travel the farthest?

Read the dispersal types. Draw a line from the description to the seed that best fits the category.

Wind Dispersal

Wind-dispersed seeds are very light. They easily float in the wind to different locations. Examples of wind dispersed seeds are dandelions and maples.

Bursting Action

Some plants and fruits fling their seeds away. The seeds may be stored in a pod and when the pod dries up, it suddenly bursts open. Other plants pop open when touched by an animal or a human.

Water Dispersal

These kind of plants usually grow near the water. The buoyant seeds float well in water and can be carried a long way. Examples of water dispersed seeds are coconuts and lily pads.

Animal Dispersal

Stick to animals: Certain seeds have a Velcro like material and stick to the fur of animals. Have you walked through grass and had seeds (burrs) stick to you? Animals often gnaw or scratch at the burrs, knocking the seeds off in a new location.

Eaten by animals: Plants with fruit are eaten by animals. After the animal digests the fruits, they poop leaving behind small seeds. What animals like to eat fruit?

Buried by animals: Some animals collect fruits and nuts during the summer to store for the winter. These animals typically store more than they can eat or they forget where they were hidden. The seeds left buried may grow into new plants.



Design the Ultimate Seed Model



Think about all of the methods plants use to disperse seeds. Now design and build a seed model with supplies found in your home or outside. Gather materials such as cotton balls, felt, Velcro, string, straws, paper, glue, tape, and clay.

1. Circle your seed's dispersal method.

Wind Bursting Water Animal

2. What materials will you use? List them here.

3. Draw a picture of your seed design.

4. Describe: How does the design of your seed help it travel?

5. Build your seed.

6. Test to see how your seed travels. Use a measuring tool to see how far your seed traveled.

My seed traveled _____ feet and _____ inches.

7. Results: How well did your seed travel? What would you change on your seed?

Draw Your Plant

What kind of plant does your seed grow on? Draw your plant and include the following information in your drawing.

- Plant height – draw a ruler next to the plant representing the height.
- Leaf details – draw a close up view of the leaf to show vein and leaf edges.
- Predator – draw or describe an animal/bug that eats your plant.

What does your plant need to survive?

Check the boxes for what your plant needs. You can include something silly.

- ☐ Clean water
- ☐ Soil
- ☐ A house
- ☐ Sunlight
- ☐ Nutrients (minerals)
- ☐ Toys

- ☐ Air
- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Space
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Other _____

Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Words are hidden ↓ and ➡

S	E	E	D	G	A	N	I	M	A	L	U
F	L	O	W	E	R	Y	K	X	B	G	N
S	U	N	L	I	G	H	T	Y	U	R	W
H	A	B	I	T	A	T	K	W	R	O	A
O	N	A	X	P	L	A	N	T	S	W	T
P	X	O	D	L	W	I	N	D	T	L	E
L	D	I	S	P	E	R	S	E	W	U	R
K	Q	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	M

ANIMAL
BURST
DISPERSE
DIVERSITY

FLOWER
GROW
HABITAT
PLANT

SEED
SUNLIGHT
WATER
WIND