

Seed travelers



Background knowledge

A plant produces many seeds. If all the seeds fell to the ground beside the plant, they would not all be able to germinate (grow). The area would become overcrowded. There would not be enough water and minerals for all the seeds. In order to avoid this, seeds have developed that can be transported to other areas. Some seeds can be dispersed by the wind or by water. Seeds inside juicy fruits are dispersed after being eaten by birds and other animals. Sometimes, seeds stick to animals and are dispersed that way.



Bean seeds are dispersed by wind.



Apple seeds are usually dispersed by animals.



Coconut seeds are dispersed by water.

Science activity

Look at the seeds below. In the boxes, write **W** for those that are dispersed by wind and **A** for those dispersed by animals.



Blackberry



Cherry



Dandelion



Pine cone

Explain how an apple seed might be dispersed by water.

Science investigation

Build a model of two or more types of seeds that can be carried by the wind. Make the models out of paper. Test the seeds by dropping them. The one that takes the longest to land has the greatest wind resistance. Which one is best suited for transport by the wind? Explain.

