

Summer 2020 Lesson

Class: Science

Grade Band: 2-5

Teacher: Mrs. Bickel

Lesson: Seed Dispersal

Objective: We are going to learn about ways that plants disperse or spread their seeds throughout their habitat.

Materials: 3 small balls of paper (can be made from one piece of paper), glue stick

Process: Rip a piece of paper into three pieces and scrunch up the paper to make a paper ball from each piece. Start by dropping all three balls into a pile on the ground. Seeds in a pile like you just make would have a really hard time surviving. The seeds in the pile would need to share the resources that they need to grow (like water and sunlight) with not only their parent plant but also with other seeds. Plants have developed adaptations that allow their seeds to become dispersed or spread out. This helps more plants survive. Let's explore three techniques that plants use to disperse their seeds. **Leave the seeds where they land during this activity until the wrap up time.**

- Technique #1: Animals help disperse seeds when a seed sticks to their body covering. To simulate how this happens use the glue stick to stick ball #1 to your body. Go run and play, but stop when the paper ball falls off.
- Technique #2 Animals also help disperse seeds by eating the seed and then eventually pooping the seed out. This time put ball #2 ball on your hand. Move around until you decide to drop the ball off your hand to pretend that you are an animal pooping.
- Technique #3 Wind can also help disperse seeds. This time throw your last ball of paper to demonstrate how a seed can be moved by the wind.
- Wrap up: Now notice how far apart your seeds are located. These three adaptations allow seeds to be dispersed. Dispersed seeds benefit from not having to share resources with other seeds.

Vocabulary: Adaptation, dispersal