



JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM

AT-HOME ACTIVITIES

Seed Dispersal

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVE:

Have you ever seen a large tree growing by itself in an empty field and wondered how did it get there? Its seed was transported there by a process called **seed dispersal!** Use this lesson to explore the different ways seeds are dispersed in nature. Then put your new knowledge to work in a design challenge to construct a model of a seed and describe how it would be dispersed from a plant.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Almost anything can be used to create a seed model, but here are a few suggested materials:

- ⇒ Aluminum foil
- ⇒ Pipe Cleaners or Straws
- ⇒ Modeling Clay or Play-Doh (here's a [recipe](#) for making your own)
- ⇒ Toothpicks
- ⇒ Tape
- ⇒ Paper/Binder Clips
- ⇒ Rubber bands

LESSON / ACTIVITY:

- ⇒ With a pencil and notebook, head outside! Take a walk to find a few plants with seeds.
 - Reference Farmer Alan's video to see some examples.
 - Take plenty of time to search because some seeds could be very small.
 - Be sure to look ALL around you (i.e. near the ground, above your head, etc.). Seeds can be EVERYWHERE!
- ⇒ As you discover seeds, observe them closely. Ask your student, "How do you think this seed might become a new plant? How could it get **dispersed** (or transported) to a new location?"



- This is also a good time to search for **seedlings** (baby plants) and see if you can match them with a nearby parent plant.
- ⇒ As your student makes observations, ask some of the following questions to help determine how these seeds might get dispersed:
 - Are the seeds you found on trees, shrubs, or smaller plants? How could this help them get dispersed?
 - Are the seeds you found inside a fruit? How could this help them get dispersed?
 - Are the seeds you found fuzzy or sticky? How could this help them get dispersed?
 - Have you noticed animals such as birds or squirrels eating these seeds? How would this help them get dispersed?
- ⇒ Upon finding seeds and discussing how they could get dispersed, sketch seed dispersal in action (i.e. blowing in the wind, being carried away by an animal, etc)!
 - CHALLENGE: As you observe the various characteristics of the plants/seeds you find, use descriptive words to document your observations and attempt to identify the plants online or in a field guide when you return home.
- ⇒ Now, it's time to create a seed of your own imagination! Return home and gather the various seed-modeling supplies listed above (NOTE: you can add or subtract other supplies based on what you have available). Before beginning, think about the following question: "Will the seed you design float on the water, fly with the wind, stick to the fur of a passing animal, or explode when disturbed?"
 - It might be helpful to design your seed on paper before creating your model.
- ⇒ Once your student has finished their seed model, have them complete the following writing prompts: "Write about the journeys taken by different seeds. How far away might they travel? Where might their brother and sister seeds have traveled?"
 - Draw a map detailing all the places the seeds from one plant in your neighborhood could potentially end up.
 - The worksheet linked below is another option to further solidify your student's understanding of Seed Dispersal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ⇒ Check out the links below to learn more about topics related to this activity!
 - [Tree Seed Dispersal](#)
 - [Seed Dispersal Explosion](#)
 - [Seed Dispersal Worksheet](#)

