

Teacher Resources

Dispersal Type	Sample Seeds and Notes
Seeds that fly or glide	Sycamore, ash, maple, elm This type of seed has some type of wing opposite a heavier part. They do not necessarily float as much as they fall and glide.
Seeds that float in the air	Dandelion, milkweed, thistle, cattail, pussy willow These particular types of seeds are lightweight and float through the air.
Seeds that are released from their pod by the wind	Columbine, poppy, violet, locust These plants have pods that almost “explode” or “throw” their seeds away from the parent plant.
Seeds that are dispersed through gravity	Apples, coconuts, passionfruit This particular type of seed is often found inside a fruit that falls to the ground beneath the parent tree. The fruit may break open or be transported by animals or water, allowing the next seed to be planted not far from the parent tree.
Seeds that stick to animals	Cocklebur, tick, burdock This type of seed has some type of sticky or Velcro-like part that allows it to easily attach to animal fur or people’s clothes. Eventually the seeds will either be picked off or drop off.
Seeds that are eaten by animals	Raspberry, sunflower, oak These seeds are either moved to a different location by an animal or are still viable when they pass through the animal’s digestive tract and are excreted.
Seeds that are carried by water	Foxglove, mangrove, water lily These seeds are often found in plants that grow near or in water. The water moves the seeds to different locations.