



MODULE 6

Seed models

Let the children build their own seed model with the materials provided. They need to develop models to display the wide range of seed and fruit dispersal mechanisms that exist in nature, using ideas that they have seen.

These examples are given as stimulus material only; children will probably have other imaginative ideas of how to model specific seed dispersal strategies.

After building their models, the children could arrange a competition to see how effective they have been - seeing which seed floats the furthest or swim the longest distance etc.

Materials needed:

Round seeds /fruits (e.g. coriander, pepper, juniper berry)

Plastic container with water

Old socks

4 Polystyrene balls (~ 5 cm)

2 Wooden beads (~ 5 cm)

10 little screw hooks

4 balloons

Wings

Plastic propeller

Velcro



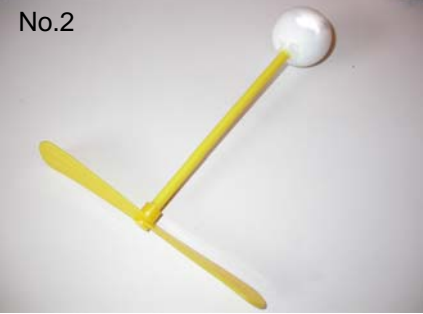




50 cm sticky tape







Double-sided sticky tape





Glue

Piece of elastic

Pens

Model example	Agent of dispersal	Special structure	Plant example	What do you need?
<p>No.1</p> 	Wind	Parachute	<p>dandelion</p> 	1 polystyrene ball + 1 balloon + 1 screw hook
<p>No.2</p> 	Wind	Wings / rotor	 conifer seed  sycamore	1 polystyrene ball + wings + glue
<p>No.3</p> 	Animals (by digestion)	Attractiveness (tasty, juicy, colourful)	<p>tomato</p> 	1 polystyrene ball + 5 fruit sweets + double-sided adhesive tape

Model example	Agent of dispersal	Special structure	Plant example	What do you need?
<p>No.4</p> 	<p>Animals (Hitchhiking on hair or fur)</p>	<p>Hooks</p>	 <p>burdock</p>  <p>teasel</p>	<p>1 polystyrene ball velcro with little hooks, double-sided adhesive tape hooks</p>
<p>No.5</p> 	<p>Water</p>	<p>Floating</p>	<p>coconut</p>  	<p>1 bead 2 balloons 1 piece of elastic 1 plastic container with water</p>

Model example	Agent of dispersal	Special structure	Plant example	What do you need?
<p>No.6</p> 	<p>Explosion of fruit</p>	<p>Structures under pressure e.g. inflated balloon</p>	<p>squirting cucumber</p> 	<p>1 balloon 10 spherical seeds</p>
<p>No.7</p> 	<p>Gravity</p>	<p>Weight</p>	<p>acorn</p> 	<p>1 bead</p>