

FACTivity

Time needed: Two class periods (possibly more if you want students to create a model rather than draw one).

Materials

- Six pieces of 8 ½ x 11 paper to make cards
- Pictures of fruit and seeds (p. 27)
- Blank paper for students to draw models
- Materials to create models (such as leaves, grass, twigs, art supplies, etc., optional)



The questions you will answer in this FACTivity are:

What are the different ways that seeds move?

How can models help us better understand how something happens?

The method the class will use to answer this question is:

1. First, the teacher will introduce the different ways that seeds can move. An 8 ½ x 11 card can be made with each of the following titles:
 - a. **Wind**
 - b. **Water**
 - c. **Animals**
 - d. **Explosive** (The fruit “explodes” sending the seed a small distance from the tree.)
 - e. **Bounce or roll**
 - f. **Humans**

Discuss each of these briefly as you hold up each card.

2. In small groups, students will look at the figures accompanying this FACTivity. Students will discuss each picture and figure out how the seeds are moving. Each small group will make a list. After 5 minutes, each group will take a type of seed and tell the class how it moves away from its parent tree. For answers to this activity, please visit our Web site at www.scienceinvestigator.org and click on educator resources.

3. Once students have completed this part of the activity, they will draw or create a model of what it might look like as the seed moves. These models can be displayed in the classroom.

Adapted from Neilson, R.P.; Pitelka, L.F.; Solomon, A.M.; Nathan, R.; Midgley, G.F.; Gragoso, J.M.V.; Lischke, H.; Thompson, K. 2005. Forecasting regional to global plant migration in response to climate change. *BioScience*. 55(9): 749–759.

If you are a Project Learning Tree-trained educator, you may use activity #43 “Have Seeds Will Travel” as an additional resource.

SEED PHOTOS



Figure 1.



Figure 3.



Figure 2.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 7.



Figure 6.



Figure 8.

Web Resources

**Environmental Education for Kids—
Seedy Characters**

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eek/cool/seedy.htm>

**University of Georgia Savannah River
Ecology Lab's Helicopter Seed Activity**

<http://www.uga.edu/srel/kidsdoscience/kidsdoscience-copters.htm>

All photos are by
Bioimages www.bioimages.vanderbilt.edu
<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/pages/fruit-seed-dispersal.htm>