Name: _____ Date: _____

Seeds That Travel

Circle group

A plant cannot walk. So how do its seeds get to new places? Seeds need room to grow. If they all fell under the parent plant, they would crowd each other. So many seeds travel to find space.

Some seeds go on the wind. A dandelion seed has a puff of fine hairs like a parachute. A maple seed has a flat wing. It spins like a helicopter as it falls.

Some seeds float. A coconut can drift across the ocean on the waves. It starts to grow when it lands on a faraway beach.

Other seeds ride on animals. Burrs have tiny hooks that catch on fur or socks. Many seeds are inside fruit. An animal eats the fruit. The seeds pass through its body and fall far from the parent.

A few plants shoot out their seeds. When a pod dries, it twists and pops open. Seeds fly in every direction.

Questions

1. Why do seeds need to travel?

_____

_____

2. How does a dandelion seed travel?

_____

_____

3. How can a coconut get to a faraway beach?

_____

_____

4. How do burrs travel?

_____

_____

5. How does an animal spread the seeds inside a fruit?

_____

_____

6. Why does a spinning wing help a maple seed go farther?

_____

_____

Words to know

parachute: a wide cover that slows a fall through the air
crowd: to press close together with too little room
burrs: prickly seed cases that stick to fur and clothes
pod: a long case that holds seeds

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Seeds That Travel

Triangle group

A plant cannot walk, so how do its seeds get to new places? Seeds need room to grow. If they all dropped under the parent plant, they would crowd one another. So many seeds travel to find space.

Some seeds travel on the wind. A dandelion seed has a puff of fine hairs that works like a parachute. A maple seed has a flat wing that spins like a helicopter as it falls.

Some seeds float. A coconut can drift across the ocean on the waves and begin to grow when it lands on a distant beach.

Other seeds hitch a ride on animals. Burrs have tiny hooks that catch on fur or socks. Many seeds are inside fruit. An animal eats the fruit, and the seeds pass through its body and fall to the ground far from the parent.

A few plants shoot their seeds out. When a pod dries, it twists and bursts open, throwing its seeds in every direction.

Questions

1. Why do seeds need to travel?

_____

_____

2. How does a dandelion seed travel?

_____

_____

3. How can a coconut get to a distant beach?

_____

_____

4. How do burrs travel?

_____

_____

5. How does an animal help spread the seeds inside a fruit?

_____

_____

6. Why does a spinning wing help a maple seed travel farther?

_____

_____

Words to know

parachute: a wide cover that slows a fall through the air
crowd: to press close together with too little room
burrs: prickly seed cases that stick to fur and clothes
pod: a long case that holds seeds

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Seeds That Travel

Square group

A plant cannot walk, so how do its seeds reach new places? Seeds require room to grow, and if they all dropped beneath the parent plant, they would crowd one another. As a result, many seeds travel in search of space.

Some seeds are carried by the wind. A dandelion seed has a puff of delicate hairs that works like a parachute, and a maple seed has a flat wing that spins like a helicopter blade as it falls.

Other seeds float. A coconut can drift across the ocean on the waves and begin to sprout after it lands on a distant beach.

Still other seeds hitch a ride on animals. Burrs have tiny hooks that catch on fur or socks. Many seeds are hidden inside fruit, and when an animal eats the fruit, the seeds pass through its body and fall to the ground far from the parent.

A few plants actually shoot their seeds out. When a pod dries, it twists and bursts open, hurling its seeds in every direction.

Questions

1. Why do seeds need to travel?

_____

_____

2. How does a dandelion seed travel?

_____

_____

3. How can a coconut reach a distant beach?

_____

_____

4. How do burrs travel?

_____

_____

5. How does an animal help spread the seeds hidden inside a fruit?

_____

6. Why does a spinning wing help a maple seed travel farther?

Words to know

parachute: a wide cover that slows a fall through the air
crowd: to press close together with too little room
burrs: prickly seed cases that stick to fur and clothes
pod: a long case that holds seeds

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Seeds That Travel

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Seeds That Travel

Easier · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. They need room to grow. Under the parent plant they would crowd each other.
2. On the wind, with a puff of hairs like a parachute.
3. It floats across the ocean on the waves.
4. Their tiny hooks catch on fur or socks.
5. It eats the fruit, and the seeds fall far from the parent plant.
6. Spinning slows its fall, so the wind can carry it farther.

Triangle: Seeds That Travel

This passage · 162 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. They need room to grow. If they all fell under the parent plant, they would crowd one another.
2. On the wind, using a puff of fine hairs like a parachute.
3. It floats and drifts across the ocean on the waves.
4. Their tiny hooks catch on fur or socks.
5. It eats the fruit, and the seeds fall to the ground far from the parent plant.
6. The spinning slows its fall, so the wind has more time to carry it away.

Square: Seeds That Travel

Harder · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. They require room to grow, and they would crowd one another beneath the parent plant.
2. On the wind, with a puff of delicate hairs that works like a parachute.
3. It floats and drifts across the ocean on the waves.
4. Their tiny hooks catch on fur or socks.
5. It eats the fruit, and the seeds fall to the ground far from the parent plant.
6. The spinning slows its fall, so the wind has more time to carry it away.