

# Soaring Seeds Activity



Most plants reproduce using seeds. Seeds come in all different shapes and sizes and use many modes of transportation to disperse (spread around). Some seeds float or fly through the air, some bounce or roll, other float in the water, and some are even eaten and moved by animals! Explore seed adaptations and complete a STEM challenge!

Grade Level	3rd-5th Grade
Activity Length	Multiple Class Periods. About 2 hours.
Materials	Computer to watch Virtual Field Trip Video Materials to build Seed Model Phone or Camera to take a photo

## Disciplinary Core Ideas

(LS2) Ecosystems

(LS4) Biological Evolution

## SEEd Standards:

**Standard 3.2.4 Construct an explanation** showing how variations in traits and behaviors can affect the ability of an individual to survive and reproduce. Examples of traits could include large thorns protecting a plant from being eaten or strong smelling flowers to attracting certain pollinators. Examples of behaviors could include animals living in groups for protection or migrating to find more food.

**Standard 4.1.1 Construct an explanation** from evidence that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. Emphasize how structures support an organism's survival in its environment and how internal and external structures of plants and animals vary within the same and across multiple Utah environments. Examples of structures could include thorns on a stem to prevent predation or gills on a fish to allow it to breathe underwater.



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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explore the seed photos below. For each seed label structures you observe and note any inferences you make. An inference is your best guess. Your observations are evidence for your inferences.



**Cottonwood Tree**

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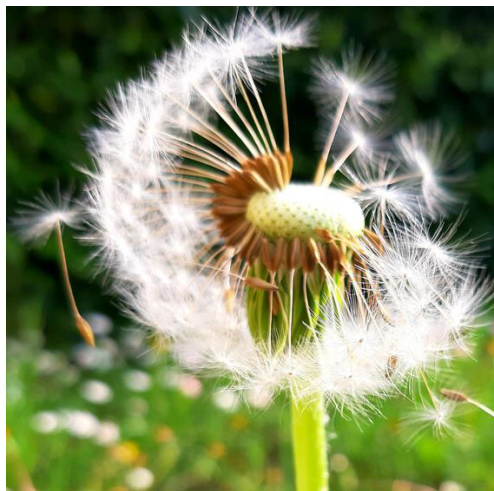


**Maple Tree Seed**

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**Dandelion**

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# Soaring Seeds STEM Challenge



Can you make a seed that floats or travels on the wind? Compete against yourself to design the best seed that travels the furthest or floats the longest!

## Directions

1. Gather materials you will need to design your seed.
2. Build and decorate your seeds! Make a few different versions and see which one works best.
3. Test out your seeds!

## Which seed design is the champion?

Test them out in different ways. Try dropping the seeds from up high such as off of the stairs. Try throwing the seeds into the air. Test dropping the seeds in front of a fan.

## Materials

- Anything you can find to build your seed such as:

Cotton Balls  
Tissues  
Yarn  
Paper  
Egg Cartons  
Rubber Bands  
Cardboard  
Popsicle Sticks

- Art supplies to decorate your seeds.

- A camera to take a picture of your plant or a small box to store and display your seeds.

**Which seed design floated the longest? Traveled the farthest? Moved the quickest?**



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