DATE

LO: To describe the different ways plants disperse their seeds.

Starter:

Sentence work:

Insects are attracted to plants because___

Intriguing question

If you were a bee, what would attract you to a flower?

Plant seeds can be dispersed in a number of different ways. Some seeds are transported by wind, and have seeds designed to float, glide or spin through the air. Plants growing near a river may use the flowing water to transport their seeds. Some seed pods are designed to explode and project the seeds a good distance from the parent plant.

Many plants also use animals to carry seeds around. These seeds may have handy hooks which attach to an animal's fur. Alternatively, the plants might make tasty fruit to enclose the seeds, which attract animals to eat them.

Watch this video:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/znvfb9q#:~:text=Plant%20seeds%20can%20be%20dispersed,water%20to%20transport%20their%20seeds

Glossary:
adapted - change something to make it new.
bursting - break open suddenly.
casing - a cover or shell that protects the seed.
developed - to grow.
produced - to make
rely - depend on something else.
showering - fall or be thrown.

Questions:

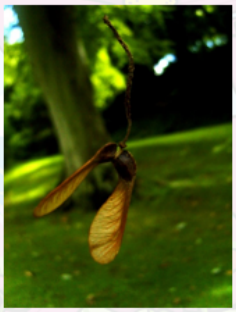
I DO: How do burdock seeds disperse?

WE DO: What is water dispersal?

YOU DO: Which plants shake to disperse their seeds?

Wind

Sycamore 'helicopters' and dandelion 'clocks' both have fruits which have adapted to use the wind to carry the seeds away when the seeds are ready.





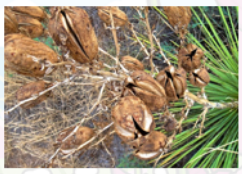
Bursting

Some plants have pods full of seeds which will burst, showering the ground with seeds, like the Himalayan Balsam seed. Peas are another example of a plant bursting open to disperse its seeds.

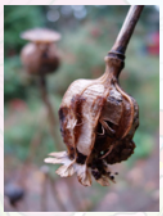


Shakers

Some plants rely on being shaken to disperse their seeds. When poppies have produced their seeds and have finished flowering all that is left is a long stem with a dried seed pod. These pods have small holes at the top and rely on wind to shake them to scatter the seeds. This method doesn't send the seeds very far. Yucca Campestris seeds also need to be shaken.



Yucca Campestris seeds



Poppy seeds

Water

Some plants rely on water to disperse their fruits. These will either grow on the water or by the side of water.

Water lilies live on the water so they use the water to disperse their seeds. They make very light seeds which will float away on the water for a while, then sink to the bottom of a pond to grow a new lily.



Lily seeds



Water lily

Catching a Ride

Some plants such as cockleburs have developed to grow tiny hooks on their fruits which hook on to animals (or people) that pass by the plant. Eventually they will drop off on to the ground.



This dog has been covered in burs.



Burdock seeds

Seeds as Food

Some plants make tasty fruits. This is to encourage animals (and people!) to eat the fruits. The seeds then pass through the animal unharmed and out the other end with a ready supply of fertiliser (not tasty in the slightest...quite the opposite). This method ensures the seed is given nutrients to help it grow.

What types of fruits can you think of that are eaten by animals and people with seeds inside?



Drop and Roll!

Some fruits, such as horse chestnuts, have a casing round them which cracks open when it hits the ground. The fruit inside then rolls away from the tree. You can tell which horse chestnuts in the trees are ripe because their casings have already begun to split open before they drop.



Questions:

1. How do burdock seeds disperse?

2. What is water dispersal?

3. Which plants shake to disperse their seeds?

Read the text again: Order the sentences.

Sycamore and dandelion both use the wind to carry the seeds away.

Waterlilles seeds float away.

Peas burst open to disperse seeds.

Burdock seeds hook onto animals and drop off on the ground.

Poppies shake seeds out of their pods.

Horse chestnuts drop from the tree and roll away.

Third read:

Task: match the sentences to the seeds.

PLANT	HOW ITS SEEDS ARE DISPERSED
Oak 	The delicious fruit is attractive to many animals, which eat it (and the seeds). The seeds are not digested so they pass out with the animals' waste, far away from the parent plant.
Sycamore 	This seed has tiny hooks, which help it to attach to animals' fur. The animal walks away from the parent plant and the seeds drop off far away from the parent.
Dandelion 	Squirrels collect them and bury them. They forget where they have buried them and they begin to grow.
Goose grass 	The conker is round so when it drops from the tree, it can roll far away from the tree.
Horse-chestnut 	The seeds is too heavy to fly in the wind by itself so it has a wing to help it spin like a helicopter in the wind.
Strawberry 	The seed is small but too heavy to fly on its own, so it has tufts of hair that act like a parachute to help it to fly away from the parent plant.

Answers:

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