

# Adapt-a-Seed

## Description

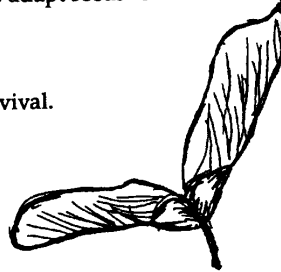
Students will use human-made materials to adapt seeds for different means of dispersal, such as flying and floating.

## Objective

To discover some plant adaptations for survival.

## Materials

Seeds: bean, pumpkin, corn, pea  
Construction paper  
Tape  
Paste  
Collection of materials such as rubberbands, toothpicks, balloons, scissors, pencils, plastic bags, cork, cotton, feathers, tacks, metal springs, wire



What does a new plant grow from? (a seed) Where do the seeds come from? (Plants grow seeds to reproduce more of the same kind of plant.) How does a seed get to a certain place? Where did the weed seeds in the garden come from? Have you ever seen seeds flying in the air? (dandelion fluff) Floating on water? (coconuts) Being carried by a dog? (burrs, foxtails) If you examine these seeds, you will see features that help them travel in a special way. A seed has one purpose: to become a new plant. Can you design seeds to travel in different ways?



1. Divide the class into small groups.
2. Give each group seeds to be adapted.
3. Ask each group to adapt their seed to float on water at least five minutes; be thrown at least two feet away from the parent plant; attract a bird or animal; hitchhike on an animal or person for 20 feet; or fly at least three feet. When dispersal inventions are complete, have students demonstrate how they work.



Why do seeds have dispersal mechanisms? Predict what might happen if maple seeds fell straight to the ground and grew right under the mother maple?



Cut open a pepper and count the number of seeds inside. How many seeds are in one pepper plant? How many pepper plants could grow from the seeds in that one pepper? If one pepper produces 30 peppers, how many plants could be grown from all the seeds of those 30 peppers? Why don't peppers cover the earth?