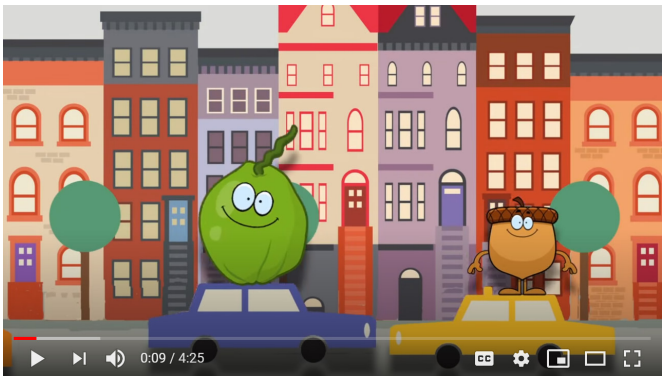
Hitchhiking Seeds

Parent Guide (2nd Grade- UT SEEd Standard 1.2.1)

Utah Science and Engineering Education (SEEd) standards were developed by scientists and educators and allow for age-appropriate progression. This activity covers UT SEEd Standard 2.2.3.

Standard 2.2.3: Develop and use a model that mimics the function of an animal dispersing seeds or pollinating plants. Examples could include plants that have seeds with hooks or barbs that attach themselves to animal fur, feathers, or human clothing, or dispersal through the wind, or consumption of fruit and the disposal of the pits or seeds.

Seeds need to be spread to new places in order for new plants to grow. There are several ways that this can happen. Watch this video and learn about a few of the ways!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CCOWHa-qfc

Discussion questions to ask after watching:

1. What are some different features of seeds that allow them to fly through the air? How about floating in water?

2. Can you think of other ways that seeds could be brought to new places by humans or animals?

Activity Instructions:

1. Go in your yard and find a few seeds to bring inside and look at. The maple tree in the video had big seeds that look like leaves. Some seeds are really small and may be harder to find. Do your best to find two or three seeds that look different from each other.

2. Look closely at the seeds that you collected. Can you identify which part of the seed helps it travel? Does it need help from another living thing to travel or can it do it on its own?

3. Answer the following questions:

☐ What would happen if all of the seeds dropped directly below the plant instead of being spread out?

☐ Have you ever heard the myth that if you swallow a seed that it will grow in your stomach? Why is that not true? (Think about all of the things that plants need to survive, like sunshine).

☐ There is an invention that we use for many purposes and the inventor got the idea for it from hitchhiking seeds. Can you guess what it is? (Velcro!)