



Teacher Toolkit

Activity: Experimenting with Seed Dispersal

Presented by: Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati

Grade Level(s) 4th-6th grade

Activity Description

The focus of this lesson is seed dispersal. Students get to sketch and write their observations about a seed and hypothesize about its dispersal mechanism. They also get to create a model of this mechanism.



Ohio Standards Met

- Science, Grade 4: Earth's living history- environmental change
- Science, Grade 5: Interaction with ecosystems
- Science, Grade 6: Rocks, minerals and soil
- Math, Grade 4: Generate and analyze patterns
- Math, Grade 5: Analyze patterns and relationships

Instructions

- Introduction
 - Tour the garden to be used, making observations and discussing expectations of the students.
 - Break into three groups for each of the three activity stations (or do each station as a whole class).
- Station 1- Observe: Descriptive Writing and Sketching
 - Have each student choose a seed and record their observations about the seed.
 - Have each student sketch the seed.
 - Hypothesize about how the seed is dispersed.

Thanks to Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) for collecting activities for the Teacher Toolkit



Instructions (continued)

- Station 2- Explore: Seed Dispersal
 - Explain that seeds have adapted amazing mechanisms for traveling away from the mother plant: these include wind, water and animal assistance.
 - In groups, have students use materials to make a model that represents one of the dispersal techniques.
- Station 3- Garden: Seed Collecting
 - Discuss the states of matter involved in seed germination and growth.
 - How did the seeds arrive in the garden? What does the soil contribute to the growth of the plant?
 - Look at plants in the garden and observe their different seeds.
 - If plants have seeds that are ready to be harvested, collect them (with tweezers if possible) into brown bags. Compare and discuss the seeds collected.
- Conclusion
 - Ask students what they can do to make sure the garden stays healthy.
 - What can they do to help the environment around the school and their neighborhood?

Materials Needed

- Station 1
 - Paper
 - Pencils
 - Clipboards
- Station 2
 - Aluminum foil
 - Pipe cleaners
 - Tape
 - Tissue paper
 - Construction paper
 - Scissors
- Station 3
 - Hand lenses
 - Paper bags
 - Tweezers (if possible)

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