Nashua River Watershed Investigations for Grades K-8

Lesson # 2-2

Title: *2-2* Sneaky Seeds: How plants help animals and animals help plants!

Grade Level & Standard: 2-LS2-3 Develop and use models to compare how plants and animals depend on their surroundings and other living things to meet their needs in the places they live. Animals need food, water, air, shelter, and favorable temperature; plants need sufficient light, water, minerals, favorable temperature, and animals or other mechanisms to disperse seeds.

Objective: Students will observe seeds, practice dispersal mechanisms, and then go outside to collect seeds. Student will also create a seed journal.

Vocabulary:

- **Names of seeds** - acorn, maple seed, pine cone, etc.
- **Dispersal** - movement away from "parent" plant

Discussion Points: Seeds are produced by "parent" plants. The seeds need to disperse to another location to find sunlight, water, space and nutrients. How can these seeds travel? Do they have legs? Do they have wings?

Materials:

- Clipboards and pencils
- Trays or cookie sheets for displaying seeds
- Light colored socks
- Basin of water
- Paper straws or fan
- Ziploc baggies
- Data sheets
- Laminated photos

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- Seed journal template page
- tape and glue sticks
- Crayons
- stapler
- **Collection of seeds (fall is best time to do this) examples:** acorns, maple helicopters, burrs, beggar ticks, honey locust seed pod, acorns, black walnuts, hickory nuts, birch catkins, pine cones, milkweed pods, peas, fruit seeds, cattail seeds..

Procedure (40 minutes):

1. Indoor introduction with seeds or laminated photos of seeds at stations based on dispersal: wind, water, animals, self dispersal (explosion, poppers/dried).
2. Have students practice dispersal types at four stations:
    - **Wind**: have student gently blow on milkweed or dandelion seeds
    - **Water:** experiment to see which seeds float and which one do not.
    - **Sticking to animal fur**: put out some socks or stuffed toys with some seeds. Experiment to see which ones will stick to an animal or sock.
    - **Animals attracted seeds**: students practice burying seeds in sand
3. Go outside and look for seeds and complete Sneaky Seeds Data Sheet.
4. Students could collect one of each type and put in plastic baggie.
5. Seed Journal: tape or glue each seed on a page and determine the dispersal type of each.

Extension:

- Seed Song: How Seeds Move by Mr R. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CCOWHa-qfc

Data Sheet:

- Sneaky Seeds Tally sheet
- Seed Examples

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Sneaky Seeds **NRWI Lesson 2-2**

Name_____

Find seeds that travel in three different ways. Draw and collect.

How does your seed travel?	Seed Drawing	Put in bag (✔)
wind		
Water		
Animals		

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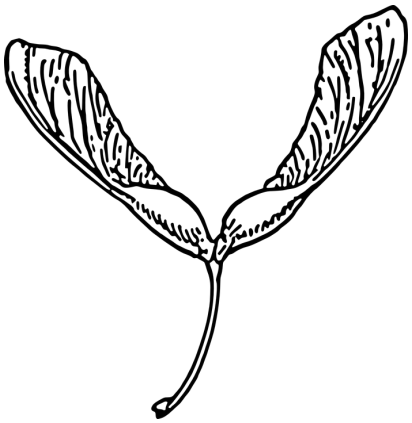
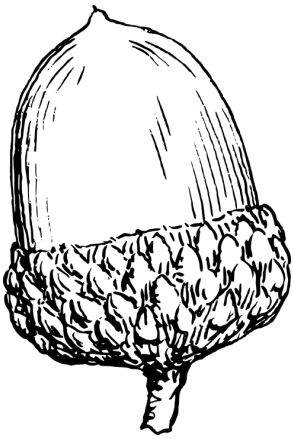
Seed Dispersal Examples



Maple seed: travel in wind



Acorn: buried by animals

Beggar Ticks: attach to animals

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