

YOUNG EXPLORERS

SEEDS

Seeds are tiny packages plants make that can grow into new plants, given the right conditions. Seeds come in lots of different shapes and sizes (think peas, pumpkin seeds, and even rice!), but they all have a protective outer shell called a “seed coat,” a miniature “baby” plant called an embryo, and a little bit of food to give the plant energy to grow and sprout.

Seed Search

Seeds can be found in lots of places, especially this time of year—along a walk in your neighborhood, in a plant box near your home, or during a visit to a local field or forest. They can even be found in your refrigerator or a fruit basket on your kitchen counter! See how quickly you can find five seeds, inside or outside of your home.



INSIDE



OUTSIDE

TRY THIS!

Find some milkweed or dandelions that have gone to seed. Each bit of fluff you see has a tiny seed delicately attached at one end. Take a dandelion head or a handful of milkweed fluff and blow the seeds away. See how far they travel. Try it again in different weather conditions. What changes do you notice? Have a “race” between two or more flying seeds to see which travels the farthest, or the highest, before landing.

Q. How many seeds do you think are in each milkweed pod?



Find more information and activities online at massaudubon.org/youngexplorers.

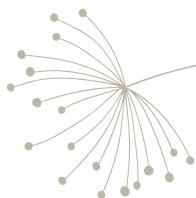
A. An average of 226!

On The Go

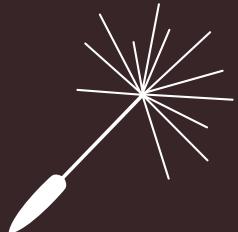
Seeds come in lots of different shapes, which help them travel to new locations to grow into plants. Wait...did we just say seeds travel? Why, yes, they do!

SEEDS TRAVEL BY:

Blowing in the wind (think dandelion or milkweed)



Attaching to animals or hikers with tiny, Velcro-like hooks (such as beggar's ticks and burdock)



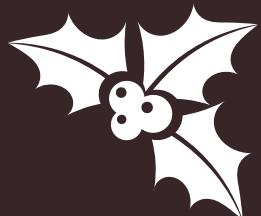
Catapulting into the air when touched or shaken by an animal—this is known as “ballistic dispersal” (jewelweed)



Being planted by wildlife (acorns)



Traveling through an animal—yes we mean that way (berries)



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