

English Transcript
Desert Stories 2nd Grade
Animal Dispersal
Asombro Institute for Science Education

Welcome back young scientists! Remember, in the previous video, we learned about some of the structures of seeds that get dispersed by the wind. We will read the remainder of the book *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* to gain more background knowledge on other ways that seeds disperse.

Just like last time, the video will pause and ask you to describe some of the seeds with adjectives.

Let's keep going scientists!

Where water flows, it can carry seeds. Even a raindrop can wash tiny seeds away. Splash! Swish! Splatter! Scatter!

The air inside a coconut helps it float. Bounce! Plop!
It drops into the ocean and drifts away on the waves.

Some seeds move on their own. Poke a touch-me-not seedpod in fall.
Pop! Fling! The pod explodes. The seeds are flung.
Surprise!

A wild oat seed curls up in the sun like a comma. The seed straightens out when it rains.
Wiggle! Jump! One way, then the other. It works its way into the ground.

Animals move seeds around, too. A bat finds a feast in a fig tree and wings away with the seeds inside. The seeds pass through its body unharmed and fall to the ground in its droppings.

A squirrel scurries to gather up acorns and bury them to eat later. But does it use all the food it collects? No! Lost acorns can grow into strong, shady oak trees.

What adjectives could we use to describe an acorn?
Brown? Fuzzy? Tasty? Or Round?

We don't have words in the book to help us this time, but we can tell from the picture acorns are brown and round, and the squirrels are eating them, so they are probably tasty.

Burdock seeds stick to sleeves and socks. They cling to feathers and fur. We carry them as we hike through the wilds and drop them off in new places.

What adjectives could we use to describe a burdock seed?

Spiky? Pointy? Soft? Or Sticky?

Wow! From that picture a burdock seed looks really pointy and spiky and we could also call it sticky because it's sticking to the animals.

People plant seeds in gardens and flowerpots. They tend the seedlings and watch them grow. Sprouts! Shoots! Leaves and roots! Flowers bloom and new seeds form, beginning the cycle again.

This is a Devil's claw seed pod it is from a plant that grows in sandy parts of the desert. When the seed pod becomes old and dry, it falls off the plant and curls open into this claw shape. The seeds from this plant rely on the pod to help it move and are actually found in this opening of the pod.

Now it's your turn.

Which adjective would you use to describe this seed pod?
White? Square? Hooked? Small? (Students answer question in Edpuzzle)

Well we finished the book but now we have all the background knowledge we will need for our experiment. Let's go check in with Dr. H again to see what materials we will need.

Welcome back, everybody! Are you ready to do another experiment? Today's experiment will explore how animals can help seeds disperse.

You will need the sock from the Asombro kit. A piece of paper, and something to write with, like a pencil.

Go grab these supplies then select the answer "I am ready!" to continue on with the experiment. (Students answer the question in Edpuzzle)

The question for today's experiment is... If I were an animal, how many different kinds of seeds from my backyard or neighborhood would I help disperse?

You will use your own body as a model to help answer this. You will be the animal, and the sock is going to model fur on your feet that seeds get stuck to.

Here is how you are going to do this.

First, find an adult to help you.

With the help of an adult, find a location in your backyard or neighborhood to walk around.

Try to avoid using sidewalks and parking lots, or areas with lots of gravel.

When you get to that location, put your sock over one of your shoes.

Count out loud 100 steps in the area you have chosen.

Then, carefully take off your sock so that it is inside out, and go back inside to your work area.

Here are some examples of what the scientists at Asombro were able to collect on their socks!

Once you get back to your work area, turn your sock inside out again over a piece of paper so you can look at all the seeds you helped disperse. Depending on where you live, some of you might find a lot of seeds, and some of you may not find very many. So, for this model we will pretend everything on your sock is a seed.

Grab your pencil and use it as a tool to help remove all of the items on your sock on to the paper. Put all of the same items in the same place on your paper.

Once you have finished that, draw a circle around each group of items.

Then write the number of groups you have on your paper. If all of those objects were seeds, that is the number of how many types of seeds you could help disperse as an animal! This is the number you'll report to your teacher on the Canvas Discussion page.

I had a lot of fun pretending to be an animal, and I bet you will too!

The next thing a scientist would do is make a hypothesis.

Remember, your hypothesis is just your best guess to answer the experiment question before you actually do the experiment. So, take a moment to think about this question.

How many different types of seeds will I help disperse?

Your next step is to find this Canvas Discussion page, find the word reply, and select it with your mouse to reveal a large white space where you can type in the results of your experiment. If I was in your class I would type in the number eight because that's how many seeds I helped disperse in the sock experiment. You will report the number of seeds you helped disperse.

If you would like to show your teacher and classmates all of the seeds you helped disperse, ask an adult to help you take a picture of your sock or results and post it in the discussion using the attach button.

Until then, go find an adult, put your sock over your shoe, take 100 steps, sort what you collected into groups, and report that number to your teacher and class. And of course, have fun! Bye everybody!

In the next video you will be exploring the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, with Dr. H looking for seeds, and designing your own. It's time to go pretend to be an animal. Ready! Set! Go!