

A Passion for Plants: Star-struck by Seeds and Fruits

Season: Autumn	Duration: 1 day (10am-2pm approx)	
<p>Overview: Get 'star-struck' by seeds and fruits with a day of fun games, investigation, crafts and discovery. Using our beautiful wildflower collection, the wider nature reserve, fun props and resources we find out: What are seeds and fruits? What is inside a seed?; Why are seeds and fruits certain shapes and sizes?; How do plants spread their seeds?; What is the role of plants (and their seeds and fruits) in food-chains within a grassland habitat? Children also have the opportunity to make a bird seed cake and to collect wildflower seeds to plant back at school.</p>		
<p>Learning Objectives: To understand the role of seeds in the lifecycle of flowering plants. To understand the processes of seed formation, dispersal and germination. Knowledge of the structure of a seed and understanding of the importance of this structure. To appreciate that plants use a variety of strategies to disperse their seeds. To use food chains to show feeding relationships in a habitat.</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary: Dispersal Germination Pollination Seed coat Seed leaves (cotyledons), Root (radicle) Shoot (plumule) Endosperm</p>	<p>Fruit Seed Nut Food chain Embryo Food web Producer Herbivore Carnivore</p>
<p>National Curriculum Links: Key stage 2: Sc1: Scientific Enquiry 1: Ideas and evidence in Science; 2: Investigative skills. Sc2: Life Processes and Living things: Life Processes: 1 b+c; Green Plants: 3 d (Reproduction), Variation and Classification: 4 b+c; Adaptation: 5 b; Feeding relationships: 5 d+e.</p>		
<p>Outline of Activities with approximate timings:</p> <p>Please Note: All activities are weather and time-dependent and may be subject to change on the day.</p> <p>Morning: Introduction (15 minutes) Using a giant seed model we discuss: What is a seed? Which part of the plant is it formed from? What is inside it? What is its role in the lifecycle of a plant?</p> <p>Seed Bingo Walk (45 minutes) Match the seed to the leaf: During a walk around part of the nature reserve Children work in small groups to find a variety of fruit and seed types using the leaf picture clues on their bingo sheets. This leads into discussion about the variety of seed shapes found in nature and reasons behind this, using native and exotic examples and giant models. Children then sort the seeds and fruits from their bingo game into groups with similar dispersal mechanisms.</p> <p>Seed Dispersal Game (20 minutes) A short investigation into the advantage of producing lots of seeds: Children become sycamore trees and experience wind dispersal in action! They make predictions, act out and record where the 'wind blown' seeds land, giving opportunity for follow-up work back at school.</p>		

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Outline of Activities with approximate timings (Continued):

Seed collectors (20 minutes)

Children explore our wildflower collection and wild bird forage crops. They collect seeds to plant at school and to use as ingredients to make a bird seed cake after lunch.

Lunch (30 minutes)

Afternoon:

Making bird seed cakes (20 minutes)

After a discussion about ways that animals and birds spread seeds, use seeds and fruits collected during the morning session to make seed 'cakes' for the birds in your school garden or at home.

Food Chain Game (30 minutes)

How do plants and their fruits and seeds found at Carymoor fit into food chains? We make the links with a fun game and plenary session.

Suggested follow-up activities:

Create a wild flower area at school by planting the wildflower seeds collected at Carymoor- links to learning about what plants need to grow, pollination and pollinating insects. There is good information about creating a wildflower meadow at http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things_to_do/grow_wild/wildmeadow/ or <http://www.growingschools.org.uk/Resources/Downloads/Final%20Wildflower%20garden.pdf> . The book 'How to make a Wildlife Garden' by Chris Baines is also highly recommended.

The Science and Plants for Schools website (www.saps.org.uk) has a wide range of resources exploring fruits and seeds, with links to Science, DT and Literacy:

- Write a key for different fruits: <http://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/223>
- Dissect a seed: <http://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/209-plants-a-literacy-whats-in-a-seed-taking-a-seed-apart>
- Design and build a seed using scrap materials: <http://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/200-designing-a-seed>
- Design a seed packet: <http://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/210-plants-a-literacy-design-a-seed-packet>