

Leafy Lessons: Star-struck by Seeds and Fruits



Season: All, especially Autumn		Duration: 1-1.5 hours	
<p>Overview: Get 'star-struck' by seeds and fruits with a session of games, investigation and craft. Using our fun props and resources, plus real examples from Carymoor's wild flower collection 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?</p> <p>Activities can be adapted to suit Key Stage 1 or 2 as necessary.</p>			
<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the role of seeds in the lifecycle of flowering plants. To understand the processes of seed formation, dispersal and germination. To identify the structure of a seed and understand the importance of this structure. To appreciate that plants use a variety of strategies to disperse their seeds. 		<p>Key Vocabulary:</p> <p>Dispersal Germination Pollination Seed coat Seed leaves (cotyledons), Root</p>	
		<p>(Adapt to suit Key Stage) Shoot Endosperm Fruit Seed Nut Embryo</p>	
<p>National Curriculum Links: Key Stage 1: Science: Year 1:Plants Year 2: All living things and their habitats; Plants.</p> <p>Key stage 2: Science: Year 3: Plants Year 4: All living things Year 5: All living things Year 6: Evolution and Inheritance</p>			
<p>Outline of Activities with approximate timings: Please note: We can tailor activities to suit the key stage of your class and time available.</p> <p>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 (30 minutes) Children work in small groups to identify a variety of fruit and seed types and investigate how they are dispersed by the plant. Which team will be first to get a 'full house' of dispersal mechanisms?! This leads into discussion about the variety of seed shapes found in nature and reasons behind this, using native and exotic examples and props.</p> <p>Seed Dispersal Game (20 minutes) or Germination Game (10 minutes) Depending on time available we then play one of the following games: Seed dispersal game: 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.</p> <p>Germination game: Children experience the challenge of developing from a seed into a plant in this active game: can they collect all of the things they need to germinate before being eaten by a hungry bird?!</p>			

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

Outline of Activities with approximate timings (continued):

Making bird seed cakes (25 minutes)

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

Suggested follow-up activities:

- Go on a seed scavenger hunt in your school grounds or local green space and see how many different fruits and seeds you can find. There are some useful web-links to help you hunt and identify your treasures here:

http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/download/hunt_seeds

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/publications/pubsinfo.aspx?Code=OP71> (fold-out ID Key for seeds and fruits)

<http://www.hedgerowharvest.org.uk/schools>

<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-action/seed-gathering-season>

<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/pdfs/Seed-Saving-in-Schools.pdf>

- Create a wild flower area at school by planting the wildflower seeds: 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>