

DESIGN-A-SEED ACTIVITY FOR ALL

By wind? Water? Air? Hitchhike on a critter?

If you could get a seed ready for travel,
how would you send it?

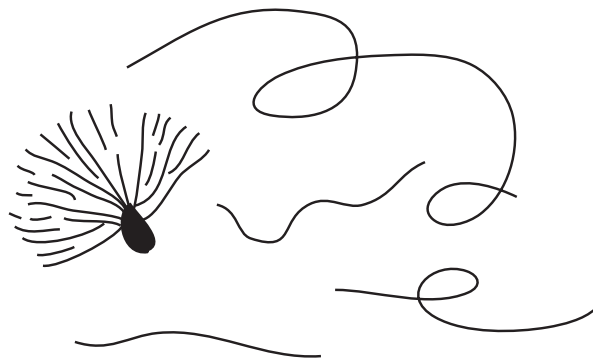
Create a seed for a bold journey from downtown
Mount Horeb to the top of Blue Mound.

Does it have wings – fluff – hooks – or all of these?
Does it want to hide in food or a flower? Does someone carry it?

You decide!

**Draw your seed in action.
Write a story of its journey.**

Send your creation to the Driftless Historium.

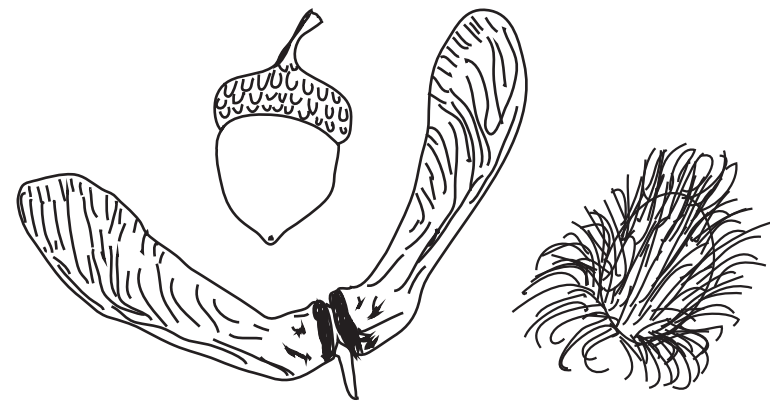


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Activities by Catherine Young© 2021



**DRIFTLESS
SEED PROJECT**



**BUSY
BOOK**

**SEEDS AS CARRIERS OF
CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

SEED CONVERSATIONS

Plants want their seeds to be planted. If you could hear them talk, plants might sound like this:

"I'm going to make my seeds have fluff," boasts **Dandelion**. That way kids won't be able to resist! They'll pick up my ball of fluff and wave it around. They'll watch it float on the wind. Do you think they will notice that all the floaty stuff has seeds attached? Just think how far my seeds can go on the wind!"

"Well," says **Apple Tree**, "I think the best way is to grow sweet, eye-catching red fruit that will also carry my seeds inside. People will grow apple trees!"

"I think you have it all wrong," says **Burdock**. "I say be bolder! This job is important! My seeds have the most marvelous burs; you should see how they hold on! As soon as some unsuspecting kid or dog passes by, I just attach and go for a ride. And, don't you know, they'll be pulling burs off and dropping my seeds far down the road."

"You know," says **Jewelweed**. "It's important to be planted where you know you can grow. I need to be by water – running water, like creeks and streams. Why take a risk riding the wind? Or a dog? Or have my seeds eaten by some animal and then - *yuck!* But kids can still have fun spreading my seeds along the creek. Listen: I have a pod that explodes! Yep, kids pinch my tiny green pods – and blam! The outsides curl back and my seeds go sailing, along the water."

Plants don't have conversations like this, but we can see ways plants get their seeds planted – like partnering with people.

When people like what we get from a plant – food or fiber – we collect, share, and grow seeds.

THAT'S WHAT THE SEED PROJECT IS ALL ABOUT!

SEEDS ON THE MOVE AN ACTIVITY FOR GRADES K-6

Have you ever pulled a burdock bur from fur or your clothing?

Burs are seed pods that use people and animals to move their seeds.

Did you ever wonder how the burs stick?



When George de Mestral, a Swiss engineer, found burs in his dog's fur, he saw their tiny hooks, and he invented Velcro!

BE CURIOUS! Go outside and see how seeds move. **Take along an old sock and a bowl of water.** Use these "tools" to figure out which seeds in your neighborhood stick, float, fly or... ???

**HERE ARE SOME WAYS SEEDS CAN MOVE.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND AN EXAMPLE OF EACH KIND!**

Drifters	by wind
Floaters	by water
Hitchhikers	by sticking to clothes, hair or fur
Slingshots	by shooting out
Ploppers	by gravity – fall to ground
Animal Express	by animals who carry and bury
Droppers	by animals eating fruit and "planting"
People Express	by people who garden!



Snap photos. Draw pictures. Write about your experiments. Send your discoveries to THE DRIFTLESS HISTORIUM.

We'd love to read your stories and see your art!