



How Seeds Are Adapted to Survive

- Plants can't walk or move, but they've developed clever ways to spread their seeds. This process is called **seed dispersal**, and it helps plants survive by giving seeds the best chance to grow in new places.
- If too many seeds fall in the same spot, they compete for **sunlight, space, and water**. Only the strongest ones would survive. That's why many plants have seeds that are adapted to travel — by air, water, or animals.
- 🌬️ **Wind dispersal** works best for seeds that are light and shaped to catch the air. Dandelions use fluffy parachutes to float. Sycamore seeds have a winged shape and spin like helicopters as they fall, slowing them down and allowing the wind to carry them.
- 🦜 **Animal dispersal** happens in two main ways: some seeds are eaten (like berries), and pass through an animal's body before being dropped in a new location — often with added nutrients from the animal's waste. Other seeds, like burrs, have hooks or barbs that catch onto fur or clothing, hitching a ride.
- 💧 **Water dispersal** happens when seeds fall into rivers or the sea. Some float, like coconuts, which can travel for miles before landing on a beach and growing into a new tree.
- These dispersal methods are all examples of **adaptation**. The plants that spread their seeds well are more likely to survive and pass on those traits. Over time, this leads to evolution — as plants with helpful seed designs become more common.



Questions

1. What is seed dispersal, and why is it important for plants?

👉 Seed dispersal is... and it helps because...

2. How are sycamore seeds adapted for wind dispersal?

👉 They are adapted by...

3. What two ways do animals help with seed dispersal?

👉 They...

4. Why are some seeds better at surviving than others?

👉 Because...

5. How can seed dispersal lead to evolution?

👉 It leads to evolution because...