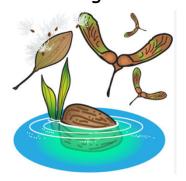


How Seeds Are Adapted to Survive

- 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...