

# Hitchhickers and Hang Gliders

For a seed to grow, it must move or be moved to a place with the right conditions for growing.

**Seed dispersal** happens when a seed moves to a new location away from the plant that produced it. Seeds are dispersed in many ways:

**By Wind** - Dandelion Seeds, Maple Seeds

- *Seeds dispersed by wind are often lightweight, small or have winglike structures.*

**By Water** - Coconut, Alder Seeds

- *Seeds dispersed by water are often hollow and able to float for long periods of time.*

**By Animals** - Acorns, Mistletoe Seeds, Blackberry Seeds

- *Seeds dispersed by animals may be sticky or have burrs, barbs, hooks, or spikes. Seeds dispersed by animals may also be surrounded by tasty fruit. These seeds are eaten and pass through the digestive system of the animal.*

**Goal:** Design and build a seed that will travel a long distance by wind, water or animal.

**You might use:** fabric, paper cups, velcro, glue, tape, toothpicks, tissue paper, packing materials, ping pong balls, thread, cotton, or balsa wood

**What to do:**

Look at a variety of seeds. Design and build a seed that will travel a long distance. Explain to a partner how your seed will be able to move to another location. Test your seed. Did it travel as you expected? If it did not, re-design and test your seed again.

