

INV. 2 ACTIVITY—SEED HUNT OUTDOORS

Review

If we were learning in school we would have planted some seeds in the classroom and we would have watched one plant, a brassica plant, go through a complete life cycle. Since we are not in school, let's see what we can find for seeds outside.

Action

Today you will go on a nature walk—a seed search, with a guardian, or just look in your own yard for as many seeds as you can find. Depending on where you live, the seeds will change from week to week as we proceed through spring. If you continue to do the work of a naturalist you can observe the changes from week to week.

Go outside with a zip bag, or make a satchel with a zip bag (like the one in the photo) and search for seeds and seed pods. You may even see some seeds that have germinated. You might find acorns--oak tree seeds. You may find maple tree seeds? Are there a lot of one kind of seed or only one here and there?

Consider how each seed would move away from the parent plant. Would the wind move them? Would an animal hide them? How far do these seeds travel from the parent plant? You may look at dead and dried plants or weeds from the fall--do they have dry seed pods on them--how many seeds are in each seed pod?

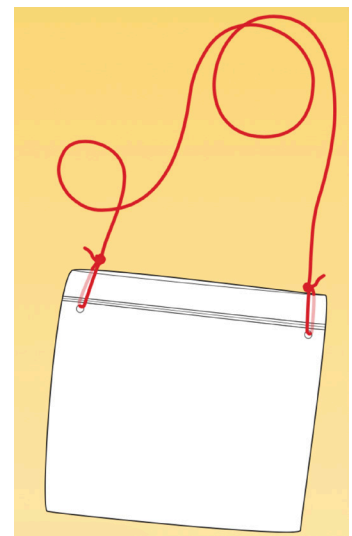
Try to collect one of each seed or seed pod. When you have searched for about 15-20 min, bring them inside, or find a place outside, and count them. If you have a seed pod, how many seeds are inside? Draw a scientific drawing of a seed pod and seeds in your notebook. Can you identify how seeds travel away from the parent plant?

Think about these questions on the walk and afterwards. Record some thoughts in your science notebook:

1. What are seeds from? What will they become?
2. Why is it important for seeds to move away from the parent plant?
3. Why is it important for plants to make so many seeds?

Follow up Activities

- Plant seeds from a store inside or outside, or plant some of the seeds you found outside, inside. You could start seeds in egg cartons or clean plastic containers
- Watch the outdoor seeds change overtime
- Adopt a plant and observe the changes over time, mark a branch with a brightly colored string, of one of those plants ,and observe the changes over time
- If possible, read the "Flowers and Seeds" and "How seeds travel" articles in the eBook on FOSSweb (find it in the Media Library).



INV. 2 ACTIVITY—HOW PLANTS GROW

View the Streaming Video, *How Plants Grow*

To access the streaming videos, login to FOSSweb, click on the Insects and Plants Module, and go to the Media Library. Click on the Streaming Videos and find the video *How Plants Grow . . .*

Students are introduced to seeds, the conditions necessary for germination, and how seeds grow into plants and produce flowers, fruits, and seeds.

Here are some questions to discuss at the end of the video.

- How do we know plants are living things?
- What does a seed do for a plant? What is inside a seed?
- What conditions cause a seed to grow?
- What do the four main parts of a plant do?
 - roots
 - leaves
 - stem
 - flower

As a writing extension, ask students to pretend they work in a nursery and someone wants to buy some seeds to plant. Based on the results from the seed experiment in the video, have students write the procedure for the best conditions to grow seeds.

NOTE: On FOSSweb, there are photos showing what students observe as the Brassica plants grow from seed to mature plants that have produced seeds. Go to the Insects and Plants Media Library for **Slideshows** and look for Brassica.

