

# Seed Dispersal Lab



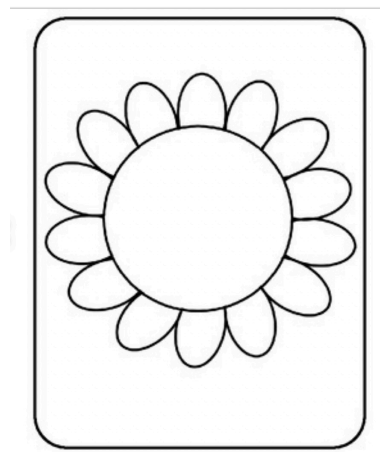
The purpose of this lab is for students to investigate seed dispersal by animals, insects, wind and water. Pollination and seed dispersal are processes that plants rely on to make new plants. Animals, insects, wind and water can all help plants move their pollen and seeds around.

This lab will have students complete three stations (see breakout below). The lab will begin with an introduction by the Science Force Leader. The students will then be divided into three lab groups. At the end, the Science Force Leader will gather the class together for the last five minutes for a review and conclusion.

Volunteers: Please read this material and arrive at the lab 15 minutes before your class start time to familiarize yourself with the experiment. Your role will be to ensure safety and assist the students as they complete the lab presented by the Science Force Leaders. You will not be responsible for the class presentation, but it is highly encouraged to read the information before coming to the lab.

## Lab Station 1 Breakout

1. The first station is for the students to act out insect pollination. Use the bee pollinator, paper flower, and chalk powder to demonstrate pollination. Put the colored chalked powder in the center of the flower (either right on the flower or in a paper cupcake liner). The students will pretend that their fingers are the bees' legs. The students will first "feed" on their own flower by gently tapping their pollinator's feet in the powder. Using a hands lens, students can observe what happens after tapping their pollinator in the powder. The chalk powder will cling to their fingers (the bees' legs). Next, students will have their pollinator travel to another classmates paper flowers to "feed" on it. They will continue to observe what happens as they "feed" on as many flowers as time will allow. When they land their bees' on the next flower, the "pollen" comes off. This will demonstrate what happens during pollination. Students should wash their hands after the lab is completed.



### Lab Station 2 Breakout

The second station will investigate animal seed dispersal. Students will see how seeds attach to the fur of animals using Velcro. Students will sprinkle Velcro "seeds" onto the table. They will then use a piece of felt to pick up as many seeds as they can by tapping the areas where the seeds are. Once they have collected the seeds, they will move to another part of the room and try to shake/pull some of the seeds off the felt.



### Lab Station 3 Breakout

The third station will investigate wind and water seed dispersal. For water, they will use a tub of water and float some sunflower seeds. They will gently blow on the seeds to move them to the other side of the tub. The students will then be able to see how water can move seeds from place to place. For wind, students will use a straw to show how wind can disperse seeds. They will use different types of seeds to investigate which types of seeds (weight/size) use wind to disperse.

