



How Plants Reproduce and Spread Their Seeds

KS2 SCIENCE

KS3 BIOLOGY

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How Plants Make Seeds

Plants reproduce by making **seeds**, which are like tiny packages containing a baby plant and food to help it grow. Before seeds form, most plants grow **flowers**. Inside flowers are special parts: the **stamen** (the male part that makes pollen) and the **pistil** (the female part). When **pollen** from one flower reaches another flower's pistil, something magical happens called **pollination**. This is how plants make babies!

Think of it like delivering a love letter. Pollen is the letter, and it needs to travel from one flower to another for the flower to make seeds.

Why Plants Need to Spread Seeds

Plants cannot walk around like animals, so they cannot travel to find new places to grow. If all the seeds grew right next to the parent plant, they would compete for water, sunlight, and nutrients. By spreading seeds far away, plants ensure their **offspring** have the best chance of surviving. Plants have evolved amazing ways to scatter their seeds across the world.

Four Main Ways Seeds Travel

Wind dispersal is used by many plants. Seeds from **dandelions**, maple trees, and pine cones have special wings or fluffy parachutes that catch the breeze and float far distances. Some seeds can travel **hundreds of kilometres!**

Water dispersal helps seeds from plants living near rivers and oceans. **Coconut** seeds have waterproof husks and can float in saltwater for months, washing up on distant beaches. These seeds survive the journey and sprout in their new home.

Animal dispersal is incredibly clever. Many plants make tasty **fruits** and **berries** that animals love to eat. The seeds inside pass through the animal's digestive system and are deposited far away in the animal's droppings. Birds eat **seeds** from holly bushes and drop them across gardens and forests.

Think of it like a restaurant delivery service. The animal eats the fruit, and the seed gets delivered to a new location in the animal's poop!

Some plants use **explosive dispersal**. When a seed pod dries out, it splits open suddenly, flinging seeds in all directions like tiny catapults.

From Seed to Plant

Once a seed lands in the right conditions—with enough water, warmth, and oxygen—it **germinates** and grows into a seedling. This seedling develops roots and shoots, eventually becoming an adult plant that will make its own flowers and seeds, continuing the cycle.