



## **L.I. To investigate how seeds disperse**

### **BACKGROUND/CONTEXT**

As we learnt earlier, plants disperse their seeds in a number of different ways, by:

- Wind
- Water
- Explosion
- Animals

This investigation looks at 'Explosion' as a form of seed dispersal. This is when plants have the ability to launch their seeds a good distance away from the parent plant, which helps to ensure the young plant's survival and increases its chances of getting the water, soil and sunlight it needs to grow.

### **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

- a balloon
- bird seed or any small grain will work
- small cup
- funnel
- sharp pencil
- newspaper/table cloth or similar
- measuring tape

### **INSTRUCTIONS (you will need adult help, particularly blowing up the balloon!)**

1. Get your results sheet ready
2. Blow your balloon up a little
3. Place the funnel in the neck of the balloon
4. Pour your seed/small grain through the funnel into the balloon
5. Hold the neck of the balloon carefully so that you don't drop it!
6. Finish blowing up the balloon and tie a knot in it
7. Lay out some newspaper or table cloth on the floor (ideally outside but indoors is fine-just warn people there is going to be a loud pop!)
8. Stand at one end of the newspaper/tablecloth and hold the neck of your balloon, over the cloth
9. Ask someone else to pop the balloon in the middle, with a sharp pencil-quick and fast!
10. Observe what happens and complete the results sheet



## **OBSERVATIONS:**

Draw what happened when the balloon popped:

**RESULTS:** Use your tape measure to find and record answers to the following questions:

What was the furthest distance a 'seed' travelled?

What was the least distance a 'seed' travelled?

What was the difference in distance between the furthest and least travelled 'seed'?

What made the 'seeds' travel? Can you use scientific language to describe this?

**CHALLENGE: CAN YOU DESIGN AN INVESTIGATION INTO ANOTHER TYPE OF SEED DISPERSAL?**

**SEND US YOUR INVESTIGATION TO TRY!**