

SEEDS

Plants cannot walk from one place to another. So how do plants spread themselves over such large distances?

Wind: In GRASSLANDS, WIND is always present. Many plants create seeds with very light seeds, seeds with long feathery pieces or wing. The wind can then pick up the seeds and carry them away further than an animal could. Relying on wind means that plants do not know if the seeds will end up somewhere with everything they need to survive.

Animal: Seeds wrapped in food (like berries) that animals like to eat. The seed will then get pooped out. Which is great because there are nutrients right there for the seed to use!! Or, seeds can have hooks that attach to animals fur and get transported to new environments.

Water: Seeds are either hollow or have little hairs to help them float. They can also be so small they will stay on top of water. This is a great method because it makes sure they end up in an area with water.

Self: Pods pop open when ripe, ejecting seeds.

Instructions

1. Look around and find as many seeds as possible
2. Sketch the seed and plant
3. How do you think this seed is to be transported?

POLLINATORS

Plants are unable to move from place to place. While some flowers are pollinated by wind or water, many others are assisted by bees, wasps, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and even mammals such as bats. To attract pollinators at just the right time, many flowers have developed adaptations such as specialized colors, size, shape or fragrance.

Bees: Bees are attracted to nectar and pollen as well as sweet fragrant flowers. They visit flowers that are white, yellow, lavender or blue, but can't perceive red.

Wasp Pollinators: Wasps are also attracted to flowers that provide nectar.

Mosquito Pollinators: Mosquitoes are attracted to small, white or green flowers.

Fly Pollinators: Flies are attracted to heavy musky smells; some are also attracted to nectar. Many flies lay their eggs in decaying flesh..

Beetle Pollinators: Beetles are attracted to large bowl-shaped flowers.

Butterfly Pollinators: Butterflies prefer flowers with strong perfumes and brilliant colors, especially red, pink, orange, blue or yellow. They often visit the same flowers as bees.

Moth Pollinators: Since moths are nocturnal, the flowers they pollinate tend to be pale white or yellow, more visible at night, and very fragrant at dusk.

Bird Pollinators: Most birds have a poor sense of smell, so flowers depending on them for pollination do not need to be fragrant.

POLLINATORS

Instructions

1. Pick three different spots within the area to do 5 minute observations.
2. During your observation be as still as possible.
3. Observe the pollinators around, the type of flower they are pollinating and the colour of flower they are pollinating.
4. There are nets present if you would like to look at a pollinator more closely, but be gentle and release the pollinator after your observation.
5. Record your observations in your journal.
6. Have fun 😊

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is the amount of different living things in an area.

- Usually, higher diversity means a healthier ecosystem
- Your job is to determine which area (1 or 2) has the most biodiversity
- Then at the three other stations you will look at reasons that may be causing the differences in biodiversity

Instructions

1. Using the 10m rope provided spread it onto the ground
2. At every 0.5m for 10m record the type of plant that you see
3. Use the plant guides provided to help you identify the plants
4. Repeat this 3 times
5. Record observations in your journal