

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Seed Dispersal: Evolutionary Advantage



1. Record 6 different seeds by classifying them according to dispersal method (Wind, water, animals, ballistic or force, gravity). Keep in mind that multiple methods may be used. Sketch your seeds.
2. Identify the plant the seeds originated from.
3. Describe the features or adaptation of the plant or seed that allows for this type of dispersal method.
4. Brainstorm why you think each seed's dispersal method is advantageous to the survival of its particular species.
5. Save your seed collection and share seed dispersal information with the class.

Sketch of the Seed						
Plant name and sketch						
Hypothesis of Dispersal Method						
Seed's adaptation for dispersal						
Location seed was found in the school forest						
How are these adaptations advantageous for the plant?						

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**Match the plant's seed type with its corresponding dispersal mechanism. Dispersal methods may be used more than once.**

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. _____ Oak           | A. Wind            |
| 2. _____ Wild Geranium | B. Water           |
| 3. _____ Milkweed      | C. Animals         |
| 4. _____ Red Pine tree | D. Ballistic/Force |
| 5. _____ Trillium      | E. Gravity         |

**Label the dispersal mechanism next to the corresponding seed type picture.**

1. Wild Lupine: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Maple \_\_\_\_\_

3. INVASIVE Buckthorn \_\_\_\_\_



### **Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How do environmental factors affect how seeds are dispersed?
2. List possible examples that show how plants and animals have adapted to ensure the survival of their species.
3. Why is it important to have the seeds dispersed away from the parent plant?
4. Which method of seed dispersal do you feel is the most beneficial in your school forest community? Why?
5. How do dispersal mechanisms vary with the seasons?
6. Do you have any invasive species in your school forest? Which ones? How do you think their seed dispersal mechanisms have allowed them to master "survival of their species" on your property?