

Helping Seeds Travel

Unit Overview



DESIGN CHALLENGE:

How can we make a model that mimics the function of an animal in seed dispersal or pollination of plants?

ANCHORING PHENOMENON:

A flower turns into a strawberry fruit.

STORYLINE

In this unit, students investigate the needs of plants, parts of plants, biodiversity, and interactions of plants and animals. Students view the phenomenon of a strawberry growing. Throughout the unit, they will figure out what is needed for this to occur. The Crosscutting Concepts of Cause and Effect and Structure and Function are featured prominently as students conduct plant growth experiments and create models of pollen or seed dispersal.

The unit begins with students planning and executing an investigation to determine if plants need water and sunlight to grow. Students observe and collect data as their seeds germinate and grow and use this data to form a conclusion. Students identify the parts of a plant and their functions, too.

Next, students dive into biodiversity by identifying and comparing living things in different habitats around the school and other habitats around the world.

Finally, students learn about specific plant and animal interactions, seed dispersal and plant pollination. The unit ends with students creating a model that mimics the function of an animal dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.

OVERVIEW

Section 1 <i>What are the needs and parts of a flowering plant?</i>	Section 2 <i>How do organisms differ within and across habitats?</i>	Section 3 <i>How do plants and animals interact in a habitat?</i>
<i>Total Time: 6 days + about 3 weeks for observing seed growth</i> LESSON 1 How can we figure out what plants need to grow? LESSON 2 How can we record what we observe in an investigation? LESSON 3 What are the parts of a flowering plant?	<i>Total Time: 7 days</i> LESSON 4 What lives around our school? LESSON 5 How are the plants in our schoolyard the same or different? LESSON 6 How do living things differ in habitats around the world?	<i>Total Time: 7 days</i> LESSON 7 How are seeds dispersed? LESSON 8 How can we make a model that mimics the function of an animal in seed dispersal or pollination of plants?

Unit 9 Teacher Guide (version 07.29.19) *Helping Seeds Travel*
Washington University in St. Louis Institute for School Partnership