

# **EXPLODING SEED PODS**



**BOOM!**

**KAPOW!**

Plants have many different ways to disperse their seeds. One exciting way is through exploding seed pods! In this fun and exciting experiment, children will learn about seed dispersal while understanding how plants have adapted to increase their survival.

**CRACK!**

## MATERIALS

**Balloon**  
**Bird seed**  
**Small paper cup**  
**Funnel**  
**Sharp pencil**  
**A piece of paper**  
**Measuring Tape**

## STEPS

- 1) Create your “seed pod!” Blow up your balloon to stretch it out, then gently release the air.
- 2) Carefully stretch the opening of the balloon over the narrow mouth of the funnel.
- 3) Pour about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cup of bird seed into the funnel, ensuring it all collects inside the balloon.
- 4) Blow the balloon up to a robust size and tie the end.
- 5) Go outside! Remember, we are going to be exploding seeds, so make sure you are somewhere you can make a mess!
- 6) Hold the balloon outward, then pop it with your sharp pencil and watch what happens.
- 7) Your “pod” has burst, disbursing its seeds across the land. Survey the area to discover just how far and wide your seeds have traveled!
- 8) Use your measuring tape to investigate the exact distances.
- 9) Use your piece of paper to record what you observed!
  - What does the final seed dispersal look like? Draw a picture of their composition on the ground, and label your drawing.
  - Did the seeds fall at your feet or disperse farther?
  - How many inches or feet did your seeds travel? Note the distance.
  - Did your seeds land on soil? In water? In a bush?

# You have just created a model that simulates the amazing science of an exploding seed pod!

What is an exploding seed pod, and why do plants produce them? Click [HERE](#) to learn more about exploding seed pods, scientifically known as "explosive dehiscence," and click [HERE](#) to watch some explosions in action!

What are the other cool ways plants disperse their seeds? Watch the video below to find out!



## EXPLODING SEED PODS SUPPORT NGSS!

While making Exploding Seed Pods, children will develop and use models; plan and carry out investigations; analyze and interpret data; use mathematics and computational skills; Explore cause and effect; Systems and system models; Energy and Matter; and Structure and function; all while learning about Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science.

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