Seed Sorting

How do seeds travel?

Materials:  
small paper bag (for collecting seeds)  
small hands lens  
adhesive tape  
copy of worksheet, or 9 x 12 paper  
pencil

Procedures:

1. Discuss with the students the methods of seed dispersal. Focus mainly on floating, flying, and hitching a ride.
2. Pass out 1 paper bag for each student or pair of students.
3. Lead the students in a short walk, looking for seeds. Keep a special eye out for dandelion seeds, milkweed pods, berries, nuts, and burdocks.
4. After collecting seeds, have students take a close look at them. They may use hands lens to see the “hook” on the seeds that hitch a ride.
5. Divide a 9 x 12 piece of paper into 4 parts by folding in fourths. Label each part with the headings: floaters, fliers, hitchhikers, others.
6. Using adhesive tape, place each seed in the category that describes how it travels.
7. The students may draw other seeds in each category if they wish.
Seed Sorting

How do seeds travel? (cont’d)

Assessment:

1. Is the student able to find a seed in the environment?
2. Can the student name three ways a seed can travel?
3. Can the student sort seeds according to how they travel?
4. Did the student follow directions?
Seed Sorting

Tape your seeds into the box that tells how it travels. Use your hand lens to look at your seed carefully.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floating</th>
<th>Flying</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hitchhiking</td>
<td>Other ways to travel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>