

Seed Extravaganza



Overview

What does every plant start as? In this fall adventure, we'll explore a variety of seeds covering the park!

Gear

- Plate, tray, or basket (optional)
- Magnifying glass (optional)

Step 1

There are so many different seeds here at the Arboretum. How many can you find? Head over to Crab Apple Meadow to start your seed hunt!

Step 2

Decide how long you would like to search for seeds - 5 minutes? 10 minutes? Set a timer, or search until you feel done. Try to find as many different types of seeds as possible. Not sure if it's a seed? Ask your adult for their opinion!

Pro tip: Talk to your adult about which items are safe to collect, and only collect seeds that have already fallen on the ground. Try out the 3Ds activity for more helpful hints about harvesting from the Arboretum!

Step 3

Now, let's take a closer look. Place all the seeds your group found into a container, or find a clear space on the ground to place your stash.

Using your magnifying glass, take a really close look at the seeds you found. What do you notice about them? Observe their colors, textures, shapes, and more. What do you wonder about your seeds? Sort the seeds into groups with similarities.

Build on: Seeds are all around us. What do these seeds remind you of?

Step 4

Think like a scientist! Scientists gather information to answer questions that they have about the world. Why do you think different types of seeds look different? What can the appearance of these seeds tell you about them?

Use the seeds you gathered to provide evidence for your ideas.

Build on: Why do some seeds have spikes, while others have wings, or super hard shells? Talk with your adult about what functions you think those special qualities (adaptations) might serve, and why they're important for the seed.

Take it home: What special qualities help you live in your community?