

How a seed travels

Non-fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

A seed needs a suitable place to grow. If every seed landed directly beneath its parent plant, many young plants would compete for space and light. Seeds can reach new places in several ways.

Some seeds travel in the wind. A dandelion seed has a light, feathery structure that can help it float through the air. It does not choose where it lands. A breeze may carry it to soil, but it may also leave it on a pavement where it cannot grow.

Other seeds travel with animals. A hooked burr can catch on fur and be carried away. Later, it may fall off in another place. Some fruits contain seeds that animals eat along with the fruit. Those seeds may be left elsewhere after passing through the animal.

Travelling is only the first part of the process. A seed still needs the right conditions to begin growing. Reaching a new place does not guarantee that it will become a plant. The journey gives it a chance.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What helps a dandelion seed float?

- A. A heavy shell
- B. A hooked burr
- C. A light, feathery structure
- D. A fruit skin

2. How can a burr travel with an animal?

- A. It changes into fruit
- B. It asks the animal to carry it
- C. It grows inside the animal's feet
- D. It catches on the animal's fur

3. What does “compete” mean here?

- A. Grow without any light
- B. Become exactly the same size
- C. Move in the same breeze
- D. Try to use the same limited resources

4. Why is a pavement a poor landing place in this example?

- A. The seed becomes too heavy to move
- B. The seed chooses to stay there
- C. All animals avoid pavements
- D. The seed does not reach suitable soil there

5. Why does the writer say the journey gives a seed “a chance”?

- A. It will certainly grow wherever it lands
- B. It can choose the weather
- C. It no longer needs light
- D. It may reach a suitable place, but growth is not certain

6. How is the passage organised?

- A. A comparison of animal sizes
- B. A reason for travel, examples of travel, then a limit
- C. A list of instructions for cooking seeds
- D. A story told by one seed

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. C. A light, feathery structure

The second paragraph describes the dandelion seed's feathery structure.

2. D. It catches on the animal's fur

The hooks can catch on fur so the burr is carried away.

3. D. Try to use the same limited resources

Plants close together may need the same space and light.

4. D. The seed does not reach suitable soil there

The passage contrasts reaching soil with landing on a pavement where the seed cannot grow.

5. D. It may reach a suitable place, but growth is not certain

The final paragraph says new places do not guarantee growth; the conditions still matter.

6. B. A reason for travel, examples of travel, then a limit

It explains why dispersal helps, gives wind and animal examples, then explains that travel alone is not enough.

Original passage written for Trace Learn. Authored 2026-09-30. These teaching questions are not a school entrance paper.