Seed Dispersal
Inquiry Activity

Objective:
- Design fruits/seeds so that they can will be dispersed effectively in the wind or by animal.
- Being able to measure how far + how long the fruits/seeds are dispersed.

Materials
- Supplies to construct an artificial "fruit" or "seeds" (paper, tape, scissors, glue, pipe cleaners, etc...)
- Blow dryers
- Meter stick or tape measure

Procedure:
1. Look up several examples of seeds using your phone.
2. Build a seed based on what you see or generate something unique.
3. Test your seed to compare how far it goes + how well it sticks to animal fur.
4. Once ready, we will test everyone's designs to see who's seed is the best!

Discussion Questions:
1. Why did the winner's "fruit" travel the furthest and last the longest in the air?
2. Why did the winner's "fruit" stick the best to the animal fur?
3. What design did the winning "fruit" have?
    a. Why was this a particularly effective dispersal? That is, what may have contributed to the win? Was it built better, stronger, lighter? How much paper or tape did the student use? Do these affect the weight of the "fruit"?
4. Does it matter how the student dropped the "fruit" in front of the fan?
5. What other factors in nature contribute to wind dispersal?
6. Does it matter if the plant is higher from the ground? In an open area?
7. What are the advantages of wind dispersal? Are there any disadvantages?
8. Is wind dispersal more likely in dry or fleshy fruits?