

A Seed Dispersal Game: curriculum for teaching plant domestication and adaptation to students of all ages

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Development of a flexible curriculum for teaching plant domestication.

Our curriculum teaches plant domestication and adaptation through a flexible, fast-paced game that meets numerous National Science Standards.

Our activity has the following learning outcomes:

1. Understand that modern crops were domesticated by Indigenous farmers 10,000 years ago.
2. Learn that limiting seed dispersal driver for plant domestication in response to farmers' needs.
3. Visualize that plants use multiple methods to accomplish seed dispersal.
4. Identify that traits can be selected upon, both naturally and artificially, and that plant domestication often selects for different traits than natural selection.

This activity works for grades 3+ as a workshop or short class and has been tested across a broad range of audiences.



Activity design and requirements

The game has students designing, building, and testing seeds (notecards) developed for wind dispersal in the wild – simulated using a leaf blower. Then, students mimic the process of domestication by optimizing their designs to create seeds that are more easily harvestable.

30-90
minute class **\$50**
per lesson **10-25**
participants

This activity is cheap, easy to implement, and can be adjusted to accommodate for different audience sizes and experience levels.



Scan this to teach this course using the materials on our website!

Our curriculum includes:

- Required materials list
- Activity setup and instructions
- YouTube demonstration
- Lesson plan
- Presentation slides
- Zines that summarize the activity



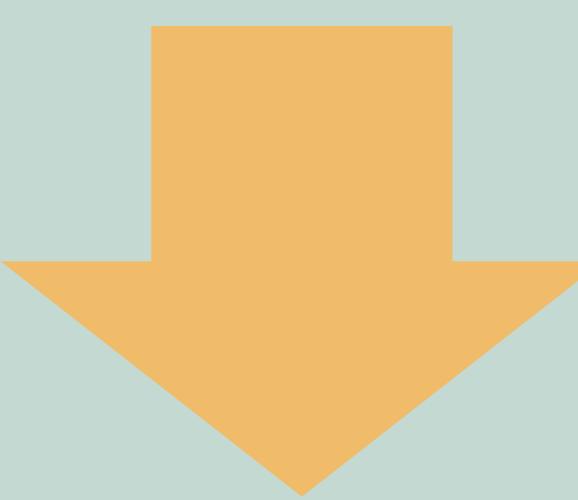
Want to know **how to implement** this activity?
Take a zine!



Want the **key takeaways** of this activity?
Take a zine!

Activity steps - as easy as 1..2..3!

1. Develop hypothesis on lightweight seed dispersal & gather supplies.



2. Build seeds & test hypotheses with leaf blower.



3. Discuss findings & show real-world seed dispersal examples from domestication.

