



Winter Seedheads - Activity 10: Drawing Winter Seedheads

Try learning through a new perspective! Different plants have come up with different ways to disperse their seed and grow new plants. This activity allows students to learn more about the functions of a winter seedhead through their artwork and explore different avenues for science communication.

Goals

- Identify a winter milkweed seedhead
- Understand the functions of different seedhead characteristics for seed dispersal
- Appreciate the beauty of winter seedheads
- Use a different media other than written to communicate information

Material

- Paper
- Pencil
- Pen
- Eraser
- Worksheet

Activity

Some plants remain standing through the winter and though they look dried and lifeless, one of their functions is to spread the seeds from their seedheads. A common way to do this is by using the wind. For example, milkweed seeds have silky filaments that act as a parachute to catch the wind and blow far away from the parent plant. Another way is by using animals, like in burdock, which uses burs with small hooks encasing the seeds to catch onto the fur of passing animals.

Different methods of seed dispersal have allowed plants to design seedheads with lots of different colours and forms. To get the most out of observing winter seedheads, look beyond the seedhead to understand its seed dispersal method and adaptations for survival.

For this activity, students follow along with a drawing tutorial to draw a milkweed seedhead. Along the way, have students think about the functions of the designs that they're drawing. Why does the seedhead look as it does? This allows students to learn about winter seedheads from a more hands-on and visual perspective, and to explore different forms of science communication.

