
1 Bread

2 Cooking foil

3 Garden soil

4 Instant coffee

5 White sugar

6 Petal, anthers and stigma of a daffodil – flower parts

7 Prawn head

8 Human teeth

	I THINK IT IS...	WHY I THINK THIS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Does the height of the fall affect the spread of the seeds?

This examination of seed dispersal is perfect for Year 5 or 6. and challenges older pupils too.

- Take some birch seeds and large sheets of paper, at least flip chart size.
- Mark the centre of the paper and measure 10 cm up from the surface.
- Drop a sample of seeds and mark the boundary of their spread.
- Repeat but this time drop from 20 cm above the surface of the paper.
- Repeat for several increases in height and observe the spread, each time marking the boundary.

Pupils can refine the process as they explore the fall of the seeds. They will need to decide how they are to make the test fair and exactly how they measure the spread.

When they look at the seeds under the microscope they can see the relationship between the seed and the wings. If an image is printed, the area of the seed and wing can be calculated easily using an acetate grid. This can then be compared with other seeds, such as sycamore and ash, to see if there is any relationship. Pupils can also scale up their measurements and calculate how big wings might need to be for an acorn. They could even test it out!

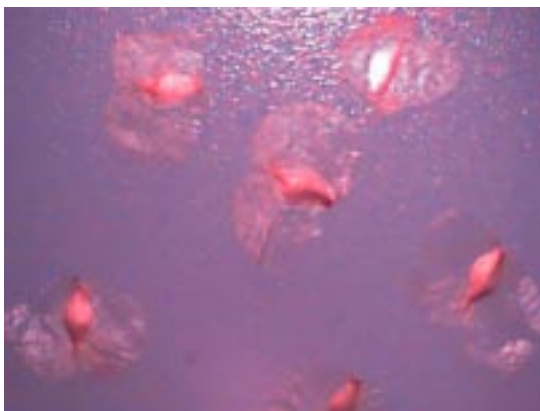
Seed mass measurement

To compare the mass of sycamore or ash seeds with the wing mass, you need a sample of fruits of about 10 g.

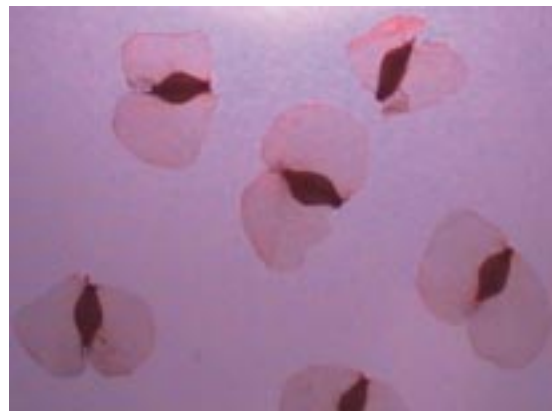
- Trim off their wings and reweigh.
- Take your second measurement from your first and you have the mass of the wings.

Does this relate to the relationship of area of wing and seed?

Making labelled diagrams and explaining how air can slow the fall of the seeds, becomes an easy task when presented with an image such as these below.


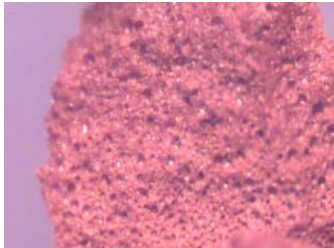


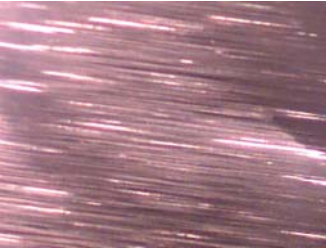
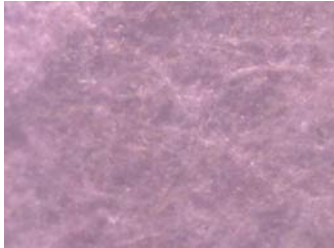

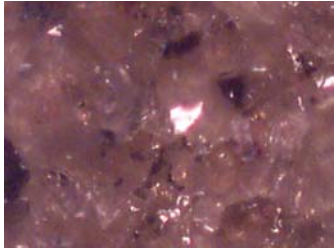
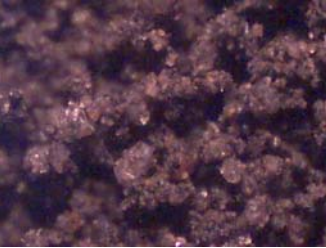
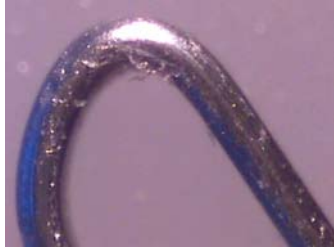
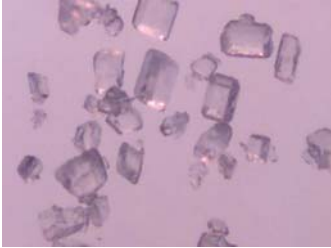


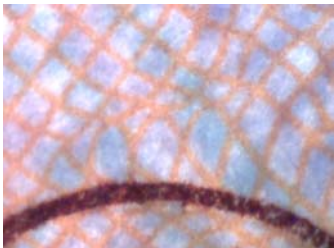




Birch seeds top lit × 10



Birch seeds bottom lit × 10

Quiz: Can you guess what these slides are?

			
1	2	3	4
			
5	6	7	8
			
9	10	11	12
			
13	14	15	16

Answers: Can you guess what these slides are?

			
1 bread	2 coffee	3 ear	4 elastic band
			
5 foil	6 grease proof paper	7 lamp filament	8 sandpaper
			
9 soil	10 staple	11 sugar	12 knot in wood
			
13 1 p	14 £10 note	15 flower	16 teeth