

Seeds Need to Move

by Rachelle Kreisman



A plant starts life as a seed. When that seed grows into a plant, that plant makes new seeds. Those seeds, too, can grow and turn into more new plants.

But did you know that not every seed grows into a plant? To become a plant, a seed has to travel. That is because seeds need room to grow. A seed has to be far enough away from other plants so that it gets the sunlight and water it needs. If a seed falls to the ground too close to its parent plant, it may not grow.

Of course, wind can spread the seeds for many plants. But some plants depend on animals to move their seeds. Those seeds are called hitchhiker seeds. They travel on something else that moves!

Many hitchhiker seeds are prickly. They have tiny rows of hooks. The hooks can stick to fur or feathers. Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body. Then they fall off or are removed. If they fall in a place that is good for growing, the seeds will grow into plants, too!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do seeds need to do to become a plant?

- A. stay near other plants
- B. make new seeds
- C. travel away from other plants

2. What kind of seed does this passage describe in detail?

- A. sunflower seed
- B. hitchhiker seed
- C. an animal's seed

3. Some plant seeds are made a certain way so that they will be able to travel.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. If a seed falls to the ground too close to its parent plant, it may not grow.
- B. Not every seed grows into a plant, because a seed needs to travel to become a plant.
- C. Hitchhiker seeds have tiny hooks so they can stick to animal fur or bird feathers.

4. Why might a seed not grow if it falls to the ground too close to its parent plant?

- A. The parent plant might take up all the sunlight and water that the seed needs to grow.
- B. The seed might not get pushed into the soil if it falls too close to the parent plant.
- C. The parent plant might give the seed all of its water, which is not good for the seed.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. A seed has to move far away enough from other plants to become a plant because seeds need room to grow.
- B. Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body, then fall off and grow into a plant.
- C. All seeds grow into plants, but only some plants are able to make new seeds.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"But some plants depend on animals to move their seeds. Those seeds are called hitchhiker seeds. They travel on something else that moves!"

What does the phrase "depend on" most nearly mean in these sentences?

- A. move
- B. need
- C. hold

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"Of course, wind can spread the seeds for many plants. But some plants depend on animals to move their seeds."

What does the word "their" refer to?

- A. some plants
- B. animals
- C. the wind

8. What are hitchhiker seeds?

9. Why do seeds need room in order to grow?

10. Read these sentences from the text.

"Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body. Then they fall off or are removed. If they fall in a place that is good for growing, the seeds will grow into plants, too!"

What would a place that is good for the hitchhiker seed to grow be like? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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8. What are hitchhiker seeds?

Hitchhiker seeds are seeds that travel on something else that moves.

9. Why do seeds need room in order to grow?

Seeds need room to grow so that they can get the sunlight and water they need.

10. Read these sentences from the text.

"Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body. Then they fall off or are removed. If they fall in a place that is good for growing, the seeds will grow into plants, too!"

What would a place that is good for the hitchhiker seed to grow be like? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers may vary slightly, but should resemble the following. Seeds need to be far enough away from other plants so that they can get the sunlight and water they need to grow. For this reason, a good place for the hitchhiker seed to grow would be sunny, would have water, and would not have many other plants nearby.