

What to do:

Try to match up the pictures of the different types of seed head with the methods which they use to spread their seeds:

Seeds that drift in the wind are almost weightless and need very little wind. They have feathery tails or puff balls



- Things you'll need:
- paper
 - ruler
 - paper Clips
 - scissors
 - pictures of different types of seed heads

Seeds that are released from their pod by the wind. Just need the wind to bend their stalks so that the seeds spill out of the seed pod.

Seeds that fly with stiff wings usually support one seed each, but may start off as two-winged and later split in two to release the seeds. This type of seed is quite heavy, and only works well from height and with a good wind.

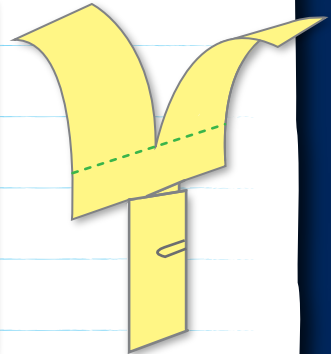
Seeds that glide have thin flexible wings, but don't need as much winds as the seeds that fly as they are not so heavy.



Make your own helicopter!

Take a piece of paper and make three cuts, then fold the paper in on itself at the bottom half.

Fold the helicopter blades on opposite sides and use a paperclip to keep the sides together. Stand on a chair and drop your helicopter. How does it fly?



How does it work?

Some trees produce seeds with stiff wings covering the seed which carries them to long distances. The wings are twisted and balanced so that the seed spins around as it is carried along by the wind. These seeds use the wind to transport the weight of the seed in the same way that helicopters are designed.

Time to Think:

- How is a helicopter steered?
- What do you know about Leonardo Da Vinci and helicopters?
- How do sycamore seeds behave as they fall to the ground?
- What hazards might there be landing a helicopter on a sandy surface?



Did you know?

The shape of the helicopter rotor blades makes it spin when dropped from a height. Gravity pulls the helicopter down. The air resists the movement and pushes up each rotor separately, causing the helicopter to spin.

