

3.14 Seeds

Topic: Plants
Subtopic: Growth
Activity type/skill: Three-level guide
Literacy focus: Reading
Genre: Information reports

Objective

- Read independently an alternative text giving information about seed dispersal.

What you need

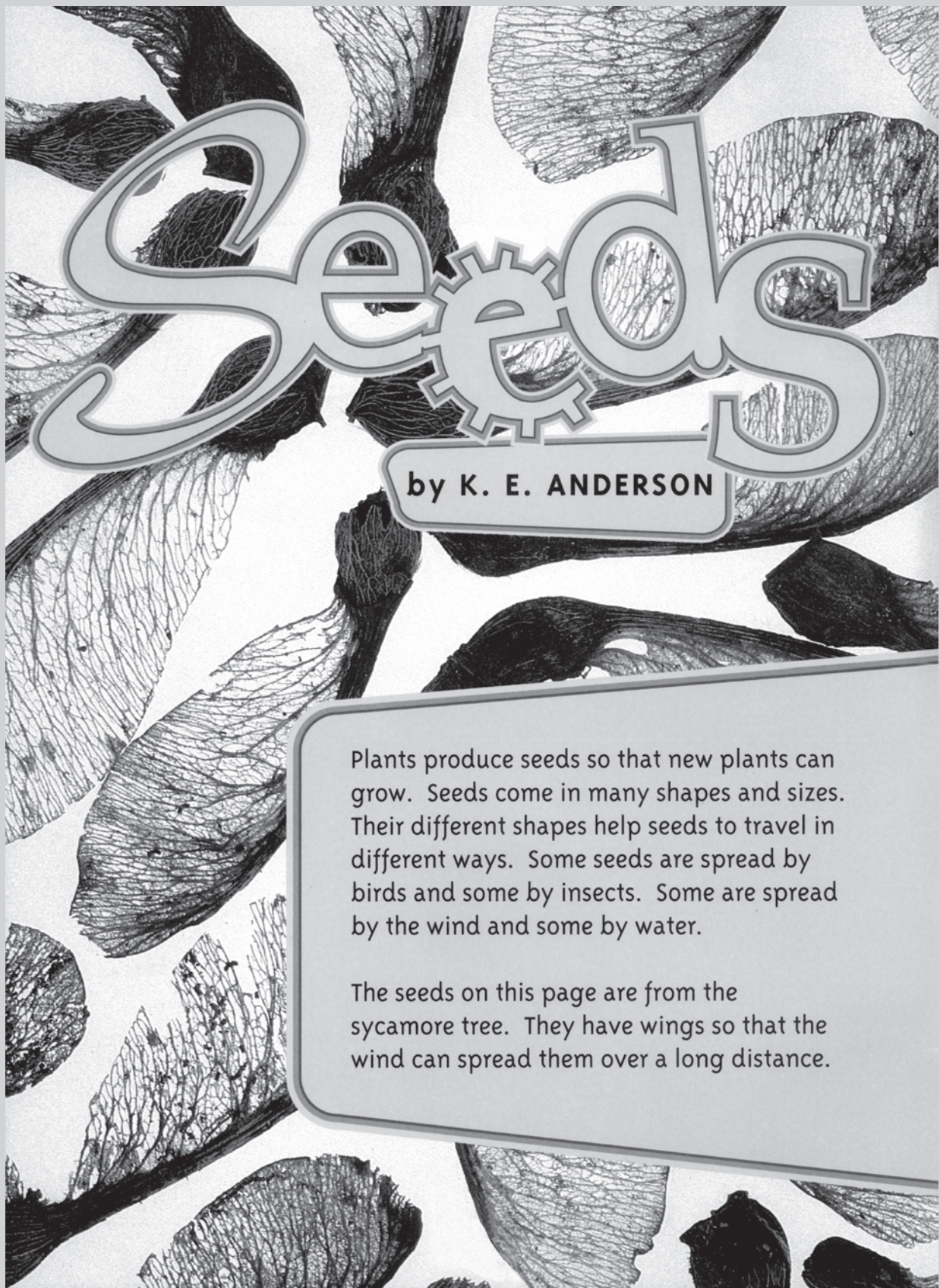
- Student worksheet (see next page)

What to do

1. Look at the first four pages of the student worksheet. (If possible, try to use the colour reproduction of this text in *Connected 1*, 1999, Learning Media, Wellington.)
2. Look at the fifth page of the student worksheet. Explain that they will need to answer these questions after they have read the text about seeds. Explain that this group of questions is called a three-level guide:
 - The first set of questions is all answered literally in the text – ‘on the lines’.
 - The second set of questions requires them to think about the information in the text – ‘between the lines’ – and work out the answers.
 - The third question asks them to relate what they have read to a wider context – ‘beyond the lines’.
3. Have students read the text about seeds then circle an answer for each question.
4. Working in pairs or small groups, have students talk about their answers and say why they chose them. They should then compare their answers and reasons with the wider group.

Answers:

- 1 a) Sycamore seeds have wings. True
b) All seeds are the same shape and size. False
c) Peach seeds are soft. False
d) Dandelion seeds are dispersed by the wind. True
e) Pea pods protect pea seeds. True
f) Peas and beans disperse their seeds in different ways. False
- 2 a) Peach seeds grow in all weather and soil. False
b) Apple seeds are dispersed by wind. False
c) When things spread they move away from one another. True
d) Birds like to eat peas. True
e) Sycamore seeds can fly. False
f) Birds can carry strawberry seeds inside their bodies. True
- 3 Plants need people to disperse their seeds. (Students must be able to justify their answer.)



Seeds

by **K. E. ANDERSON**

Plants produce seeds so that new plants can grow. Seeds come in many shapes and sizes. Their different shapes help seeds to travel in different ways. Some seeds are spread by birds and some by insects. Some are spread by the wind and some by water.

The seeds on this page are from the sycamore tree. They have wings so that the wind can spread them over a long distance.

Activity fourteen



This is a dandelion. Dandelions also use the wind to spread their seeds. The fluffy bits on one end make it easy for the wind to carry the seed. The part that will grow into a new plant is the little lump at the other end of each seed. Sometimes people help to spread dandelion seeds by blowing them into the air.



Activity fourteen



This seed is inside a peach. It is hard because it might be a long time before the weather and the soil are right for it to start growing.

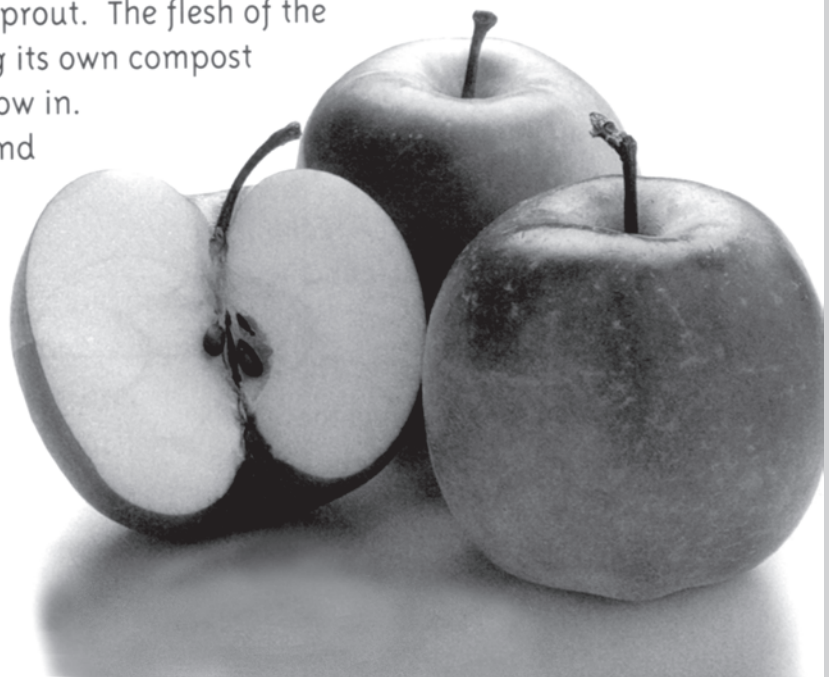
Seeds like this can survive for many years without sprouting. When the conditions are just right, the seed will start to grow into a new plant.

Activity fourteen

These are peas. They are seeds too. They come in a soft shell called a pod. It protects them from birds, insects, and the weather. Eventually, the pod dries on the vine and splits open. Then the peas fall to the ground and sprout. Beans grow in the same way.



An apple has seeds inside its core. If an apple falls onto the ground and is left long enough, the seeds start to sprout. The flesh of the apple rots, making its own compost for the seeds to grow in. Sometimes birds and other animals eat the tasty apples. They carry the seeds in their gut to another place where a new apple tree can grow.



Activity fourteen

1

- | | | | |
|----------|--|-------------|--------------|
| a | Sycamore seeds have wings. | True | False |
| b | All seeds are the same shape and size. | True | False |
| c | Peach seeds are soft. | True | False |
| d | Dandelion seeds are dispersed by the wind. | True | False |
| e | Pea pods protect pea seeds. | True | False |
| f | Peas and beans disperse their seeds in different ways. | True | False |

2

- | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------|--------------|
| a | Peach seeds grow in all weather and soil. | True | False |
| b | Apple seeds are dispersed by wind. | True | False |
| c | When things spread they move away from one another. | True | False |
| d | Birds like to eat peas. | True | False |
| e | Sycamore seeds can fly. | True | False |
| f | Birds can carry strawberry seeds inside their bodies. | True | False |

3

- | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|
| | Plants need people to disperse their seeds. | True | False |
|--|---|-------------|--------------|