Close Reading and Text Dependent Questions in Science
Traveling Seeds (Structures of Life – Grade 3)

The text selection, *Traveling Seeds,* is found in *FOSS Science Stories*, *Structures of Life,* pg 3.

Traveling Seeds

Some seeds fall on the ground near the plant. They will grow into new plants there. But it's not good for all the seeds to stay in the same place. If they do, the plants will become crowded and not have enough nutrients or water. So seeds have different ways to travel.

Many seeds are carried to new places by the wind. They can travel many kilometers before they fall to the ground.

Seeds can also be carried to new places by water. If a seed falls into a stream, the rushing water may carry it to a new spot downstream. Sometimes a heavy rain may wash a seed to a new spot. The most famous water traveler is the coconut. The outer coat of a coconut is waterproof. Inside this coat are air and fibers that help the coconut float. Deep inside the coconut is the seed of a new plant. Coconuts fall from trees when they are ripe. Sometimes they roll into the water, and the water carries them to new places. After a while, the waterproof coat wears away. Then the seed can sprout into a new plant.

Animals spread seeds, too. Squirrels bury acorns, hickory nuts, and peanuts to eat during the winter. But they never find all the seeds they bury. Some of the seeds they miss grow into new plants. Many fruits are eaten by birds and other animals. The seeds in the fruits pass through the animals' digestive systems. Then the seeds leave the animals' bodies in their droppings.

Some seeds have sharp hooks or burrs that can stick to an animal's fur or a person's clothes. This is another way seeds travel to new places.

Look in the Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Documents for guidance on when this should be taught. These can be found on the BPS Science Department's website: http://bpsscience.weebly.com/ You will find the Student Learning Outcomes documents organized there by grade level.

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A red squirrel feeding in winter

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Student Questions

1. How does the author explain the benefits of seeds traveling from place to place?

2. List three ways in which seeds travel. Which way does a coconut travel?

3. How does the structure of some seeds help them travel?

4. What are three different ways in which animals help seeds travel?

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Sample Answers

1. **How does the author explain the benefits of seeds traveling from place to place?**
   So seeds can grow with enough nutrients and water.

2. **List three ways in which seeds travel. Which way can a coconut travel?**
   Seeds can travel by wind, air, or by interacting with an animal. Coconuts can travel by floating in water.

3. **How does the structure of some seeds help them travel?**
   Some are waterproof (for floating) while others have burrs (for hooking onto animals).

4. **What are three different ways in which animals help seeds travel?**
   The seeds can be buried by an animal, eaten and passed through an animal's digestive system, or hooked onto an animal's fur.

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