

# handout

# Seed Blaster



Exploring your world,  
one mission at a time  
[pbskids.org/plumlanding](http://pbskids.org/plumlanding)

## What Is This Activity?

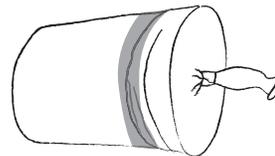
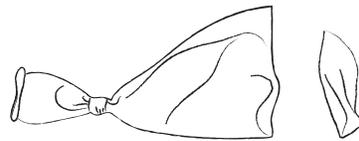
**How do plants spread their seeds?** Make and test a model of one forceful strategy: Seed pods that explode!

**Big Science Idea:** Plants can't move on their own. They depend on wind, water, animals, and explosive force to take their seeds to new places where they can sprout and grow.

## Go Outside

### How to Make a Seed Blaster

1. Tie off the neck of a deflated balloon.
2. Cut off the tip (opposite the neck) of the balloon.
3. Wrap the balloon around one end of a toilet paper tube. Be sure it's snug.
4. Tape the balloon firmly in place.



### How to Test a Seed Blaster

1. Sprinkle a few seeds into the balloon.
2. Pull back the balloon as far as you can. Let go!
3. Hold a Seed Blaster Contest:
  - How far can you blast the seeds? Can you beat that record?
  - Can you jump as far as the seeds travel?
  - Can you run faster than the seeds fly?
  - How could you boost the Seed Blaster's range? (Lighter weight seeds, super stretchy balloon, blast in the direction of wind, etc.)

### Activity Time

15 minutes

### Materials

*Per person*

- Small balloon
- Toilet paper tube or paper towel tube cut in half
- Scissors
- Roll of masking or shipping tape
- About half a cup of birdseed (or small dried peas or crushed pasta bits)

### Cool Fact

Some exploding seed pods can launch seeds up to 200 feet—as long as two basketball courts!

### Outdoor Family Fun with Plum APP

This app gets families outdoors exploring the world. Every day, the app offers five outdoor missions to get everyone thinking and talking about nature and the science that's all around us.

Find the app and more fun resources on [pbskids.org/plumlanding](http://pbskids.org/plumlanding).

## Explore Some More

### Slow-Motion Explosions

If you have internet access, search for “exploding seed pods” and watch a nature video of seed pods exploding. The Smithsonian Channel has an amazing slow-motion one on YouTube, for example.



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

This PLUM LANDING material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1516466. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM/© 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation.