

XPLOR MOR

The Great Escape

artwork by
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Most plants make many seeds. A single cottonwood tree, for example, can produce 25 million fluffy seeds! If they all fell directly beneath the tree, there wouldn't be enough sunlight and water for each of them to grow. To avoid overcrowding, seeds have different ways to escape from their parents.

Escape Plans

Rollers



Acorns and hickory nuts are rounded and simply roll downhill when they drop to the ground.

Riders



Some seeds are sticky and cling to the fur of animals that brush against the parent plant.

Flyers



Maple trees, dandelions, and many other plants produce fluffy or winged seeds that fly away when the wind blows.

Poopers



Blackberries, apples, and other fruits contain seeds. When an animal eats the fruit, the tough seeds pass through the animal's body and get pooped out in a new location.

Shooters



Some plants, like jewelweed, produce pods that burst open and shoot seeds many feet away.

Floaters



Water lilies and other aquatic plants make seeds that float in the water.

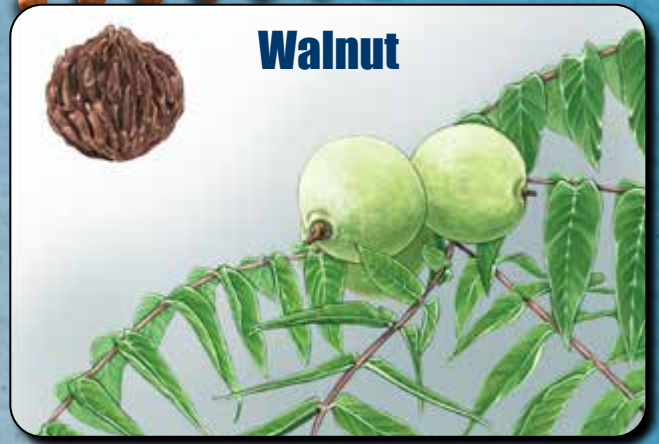
WHAT IS IT?

— FROM PAGE 3 —

as a zesty seasoning in sauerkraut and stews. The red cedar's boughs as well as berries smell like Christmas, and they look nice in a wreath or on the dinner table during the holidays. Learn more at mdc.mo.gov/field-guide.

The eastern red cedar tree grows everywhere in Missouri. In the winter, it attracts flocks of hungry cedar waxwings that gobble up its waxy blue berries. People like to eat the berries, too, mostly





Instructions

Can you match each seed on this page with one of the escape plans listed below? If you do it right, the circled letters will answer the riddle. **Note:** There are more spaces than needed for some answers.

1. Flyer: _____ () _____
2. Pooper: _____ () _____
3. Roller: _____ () _____
4. Rider: _____ () _____
5. Shooter: _____ () _____
6. Floater: _____ () _____

How did the squirrel get so fat?
It ate lots of _____

1 2 3 4 5 6