Name:

# Adaptive Aviators Flying Seeds

Some trees produce seeds with stiff wings that allow them to glide long distances. The wings are slightly twisted or balanced so that the seed spins as it glides to the ground. The following images depict either a Sycamore, Ash, or Hornbeam tree seed. Label each one, and describe 2 characteristics you notice about them.



Sources: Norris, Jill. Science Experiments For Young Learners. Monterey: Evan-Moor Educational Publishers, 2000. Print.

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### Follow-Up:

- I. Why do the spinners fall in the first place, since they are so light?
- 2. Did the spinners move to the side? Why would they?
- 3. What other things are pulled to the ground in a similar way?
- 4. Why is it important for maple keys and other "twisting and turning" seeds to catch the wind?



#### There are other ways that plants have adapted in terms of dispersing their seeds: some have seeds that drift in the wind (rather than flying/gliding), and some whose seeds are simply released from their pods by the wind bending their stalks.

Windy Wanderers

Can you match the pictures to the type of plant, and determined whether or not it is a **drifting** or pod seed? The possible names are: Willow Herb, Bulrush, Columbine, Dandelion, Poppy, and **Evening Primrose.** 











Name: Name: Name: Name: Name: Name: Type: Type: Type: Type: Type: Type: Drifting / Pod Drifting / Pod

## Practical Plants

Plants have developed different adaptations to help them survive. Can you determine how the plants in the photos have adapted to their environment?



