DESIGN A SEED

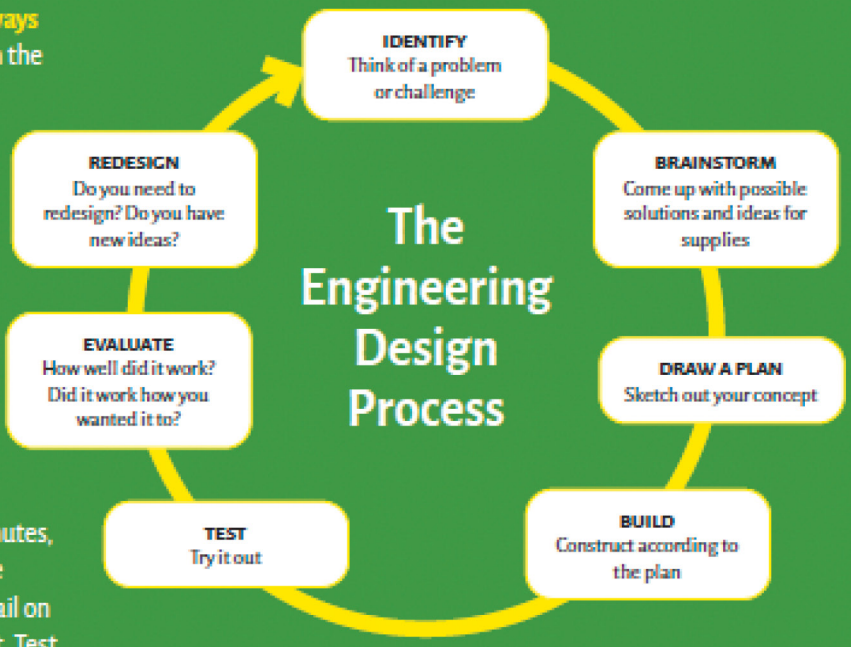
IDEAS FOR SUPPLIES

- science notebook
- a dried bean
- organic materials (wood, leaves, grasses)
- art supplies

Plants disperse their seeds in many ways. Seeds may be moved by an animal, float on water, catch a breeze, rely on gravity, or be released in a wildfire. Seed dispersal is vital for the survival of a plant species.

› **Investigate the various ways that seeds travel.** It can be on the fur of an animal, through the air, or on the water, for example.

› **Using the engineering design process, brainstorm ways to disperse your "seed."** Sketch a design and build the prototype. Set goals for your seed dispersal. Perhaps your seed will float for more than three minutes, stick to an animal's fur and be carried 10 feet or farther, or sail on a breeze for more than 15 feet. Test your dispersal method.



› **Evaluate your results.** What worked? What didn't? How could you improve on your seed dispersal method? Redesign!

Try This

Consider designing a "super seed"—one that can be dispersed in more than one way. Perhaps design a seed that both floats on water and through the air. Or create one that sticks to an animal's fur and floats on water. Can you design a super seed that can be dispersed all three ways?

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