

Activity 1



978-1-9167800-7-1

READING COMPREHENSION

Lead-in activity

Before reading **Fluffy, Flying Seed** help children identify the title, author, illustrator and blurb on the front and back covers. Study the front cover and ask:

- What plants and animals can you identify?
- Why do you think these plants and animals are on the front cover?
- What do you think the book will be about?

Main activity

The text has two levels. You can enjoy reading the main text out loud with younger children, and include the supporting text for more advanced learners. After reading, ask the following questions to check for understanding, promote deeper thinking and prompt further discussion.

The seeds:

- How do dandelion seeds move away from their flower head?
- Can you name three places a dandelion seed might land?
- How many seeds can a dandelion make each year?

The plant:

- What is the name of the main root which pushes into the ground?
- Why are the leaves so important?
- Which three things do dandelion plants need to grow?

The flower:

- Why do dandelion flowers close at night?
- Can you name three animals which eat dandelions or their pollen and nectar?
- In which season do dandelions mostly flower?

The meadow:

- Can you name three animals you might find in a meadow?
- How do children help dandelions grow in a meadow?
- How long can dandelion plants last for?



Name _____

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. Draw four lines to match the part of the dandelion plant to its description.

taproot	Trap light energy from the sun.
seed	Strong to hold the dandelion in place.
leaves	Around 100 tiny florets that make nectar and pollen.
flower head	A little package that holds a baby plant.

2. Write the numbers 1–4 in the boxes to show the order of a dandelion's life cycle.

The seed grows with jagged-edged leaves.

A flying seed lands in soil.

Seed heads open and seeds lift with the wind.

Flowers bloom, opening in the day and closing at night.

3. Tick one box in each row to show if the statement is **true** or **false**.

	TRUE	FALSE
A dandelion seed is called a pappus.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxygen mixes with water from the roots.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Latex in a dandelion's stalk protects it from being eaten.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dandelions can be found in Antarctica.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Every part of a dandelion is edible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Is a dandelion a weed or a wildflower? Explain your answer.

Activity 2



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PATTERN SEEKING

Lead-in activity

Explore a meadow habitat, school field or local park and notice where dandelions are growing and also where they are not growing. Why could this be?

Main activity

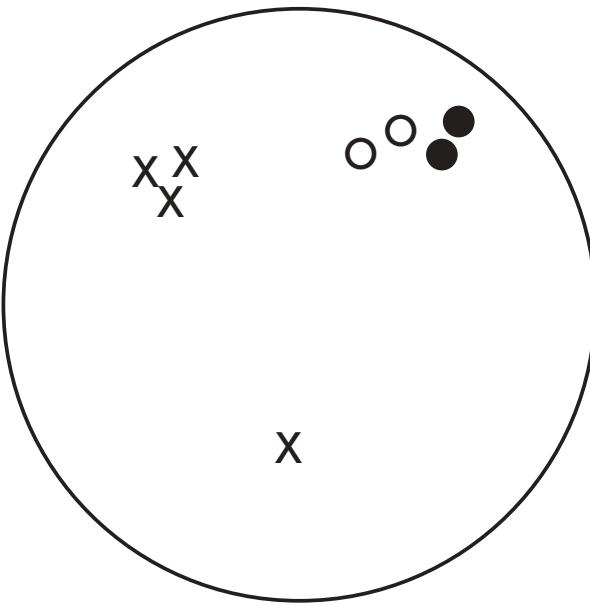
Use a hula hoop as a measure to sample an area in the local environment. Place the hula hoop on the ground and record the number of dandelions and other wildflowers within the hoop by marking inside a circle on the recording sheet attached. Take the hula hoop to different locations, e.g. under a tree, next to a playground, along a stream, and record the dandelions there too. Use the data collected and transfer it onto a tally chart to explore patterns in where dandelions grow and do not grow in the local environment.



KEY

X Dandelion 

O Daisy 



● Buttercup 

★ Other

Take it further

Use the hula hoop sampling technique to observe dandelions growing throughout spring in the same location. Visit the same location each week and record the placement and number of dandelions. Compare each week's records to see changes over time.

Name _____

WILDFLOWER SURVEY

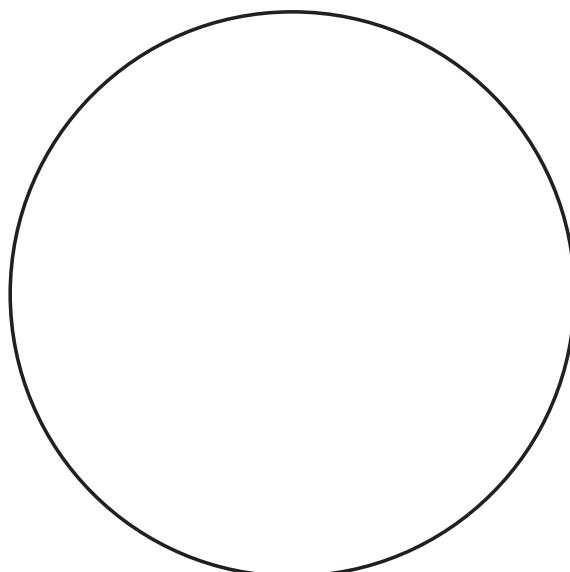
KEY

Dandelion 

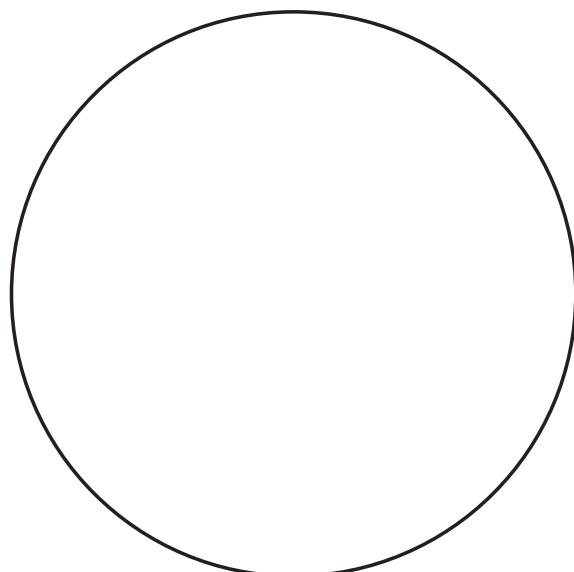
Daisy 

Buttercup 

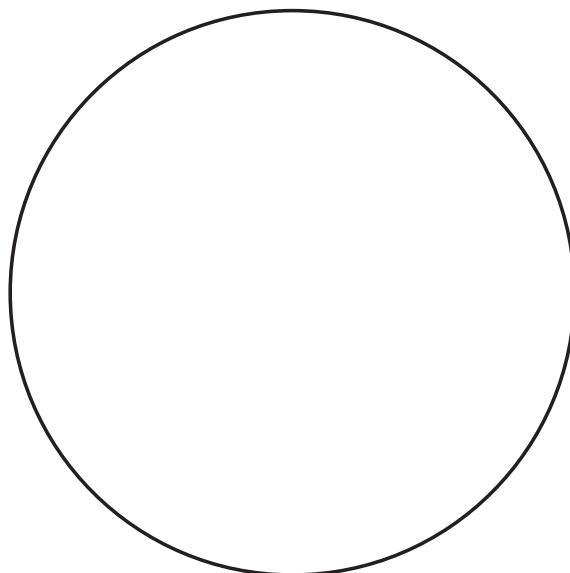
Other 



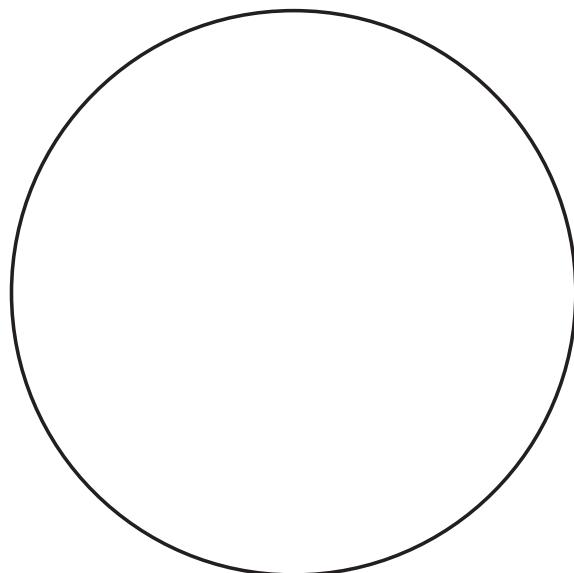
Location 1 _____



Location 2 _____



Location 3 _____



Location 4 _____

LOCATION	TALLY	TOTAL
1		
2		
3		
4		

Activity 3



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GROWTH OF A SEED

Lead-in activity

Find a dandelion seed head and take a close look at each pappus. Use a magnifying glass and black paper behind the seed head to observe clearly and closely.

Main activity

Plant the pappus and observe the growth of the seeds over time (every 10 days is recommended). Record the seed growth on the observation sheet to see how the roots and leaves grow to create a new dandelion plant.



- 1 Take an empty, clean glass jar and fill it up with soil.



- 2 Dampen the soil by spraying it with water.



- 3 Carefully remove 3 to 4 pappus from the seed head.



- 4 Place each pappus on top of the soil next to the inside of the glass.



- 5 Put the jar in a warm, sunny location, and keep the soil moist.



- 6 Record what you see over time on the sheet attached.

Take it further

Plant other seeds from meadow flowers and compare their growth over time to the dandelion seeds by recording on the observation sheet.

Name _____

GROWTH OF A SEED

Type of seed _____



Date _____



Date _____



Date _____



Date _____

Activity 4



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SEED FLIGHT

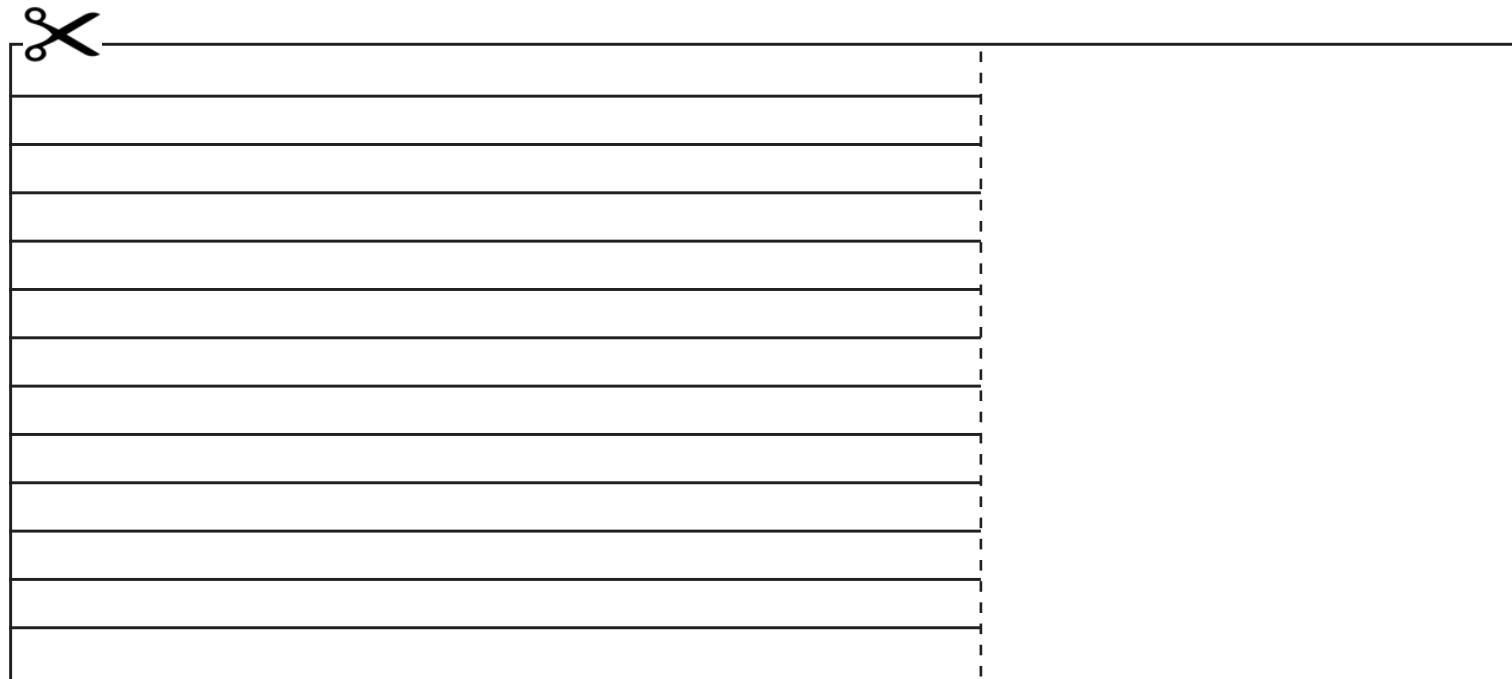
Lead-in activity

Collect a variety of objects and explore how they travel when dropped from a height. Compare a rock to a feather, a ping pong ball to a tissue or a pencil to a leaf. Find out all about the pappi parachutes from the book *Fluffy, Flying Seed*.

Main activity

Explore how a dandelion seed travels through the air by creating a paper version from the template below. Test it by repeatedly dropping it from a height or compare how it flies on days with different wind speeds.

Cut out the rectangle and carefully cut along the narrow lines. Fold along the dotted line and roll the blank section of the rectangle around a thin object e.g. a pencil or cocktail stick and secure with tape. The cut, thin strands of paper will begin to flap in an outward position and these will form the pappus for your paper dandelion seed!



Take it further

Find out about other seeds that use wind dispersal e.g. hazel catkins, maple seeds and bulrushes. Can you find them in your local habitat, study the seeds up close and then release them into the wind?

Activity 5



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SMART SEEDS

Lead-in activity

In temperate climates, dandelion pappi are often exposed to damp or wet weather. Explore how different materials react to water by dipping dry hands in a bowl of water and then repeat but with hands that have a coating of a natural oil such as coconut or vegetable oil.

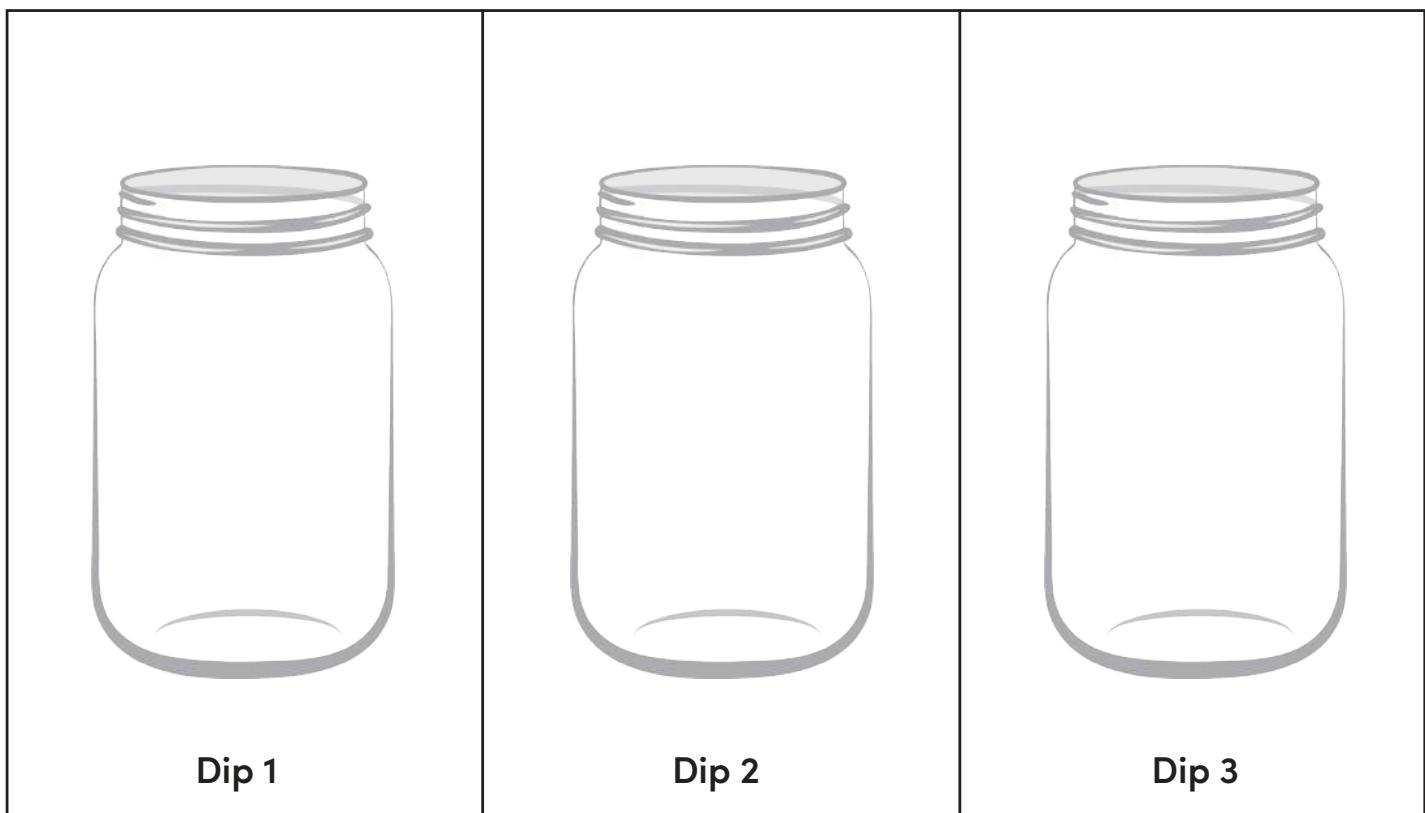


Main activity

Pick a full dandelion seed head and stem and carefully carry it to a wind-free location. Dip the seed head into a bowl of water for 2-3 seconds and remove. Draw the dandelion seed head as it looks when it is removed from the water. Repeat two more times to explore what happens to the pappi when it is exposed to extreme amounts of water.

Take it further

With a fresh dandelion seed head, compare what happens when it is dipped in different liquids e.g. olive oil, soapy water, milk, and half water, half oil. Does the type of liquid affect the pappi in a different way?



Activity 6



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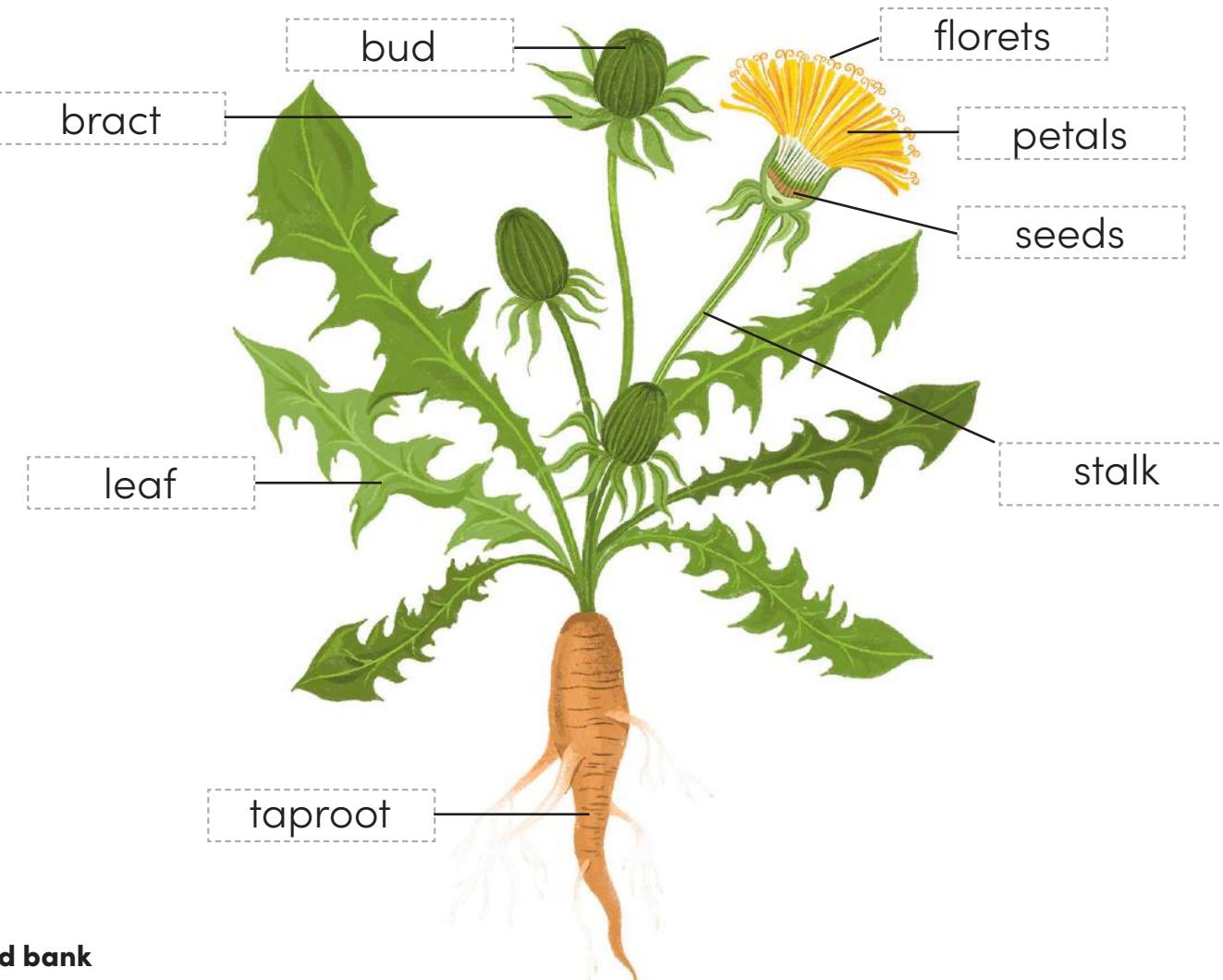
PARTS OF A DANDELION

Lead-in activity

Fluffy, Flying Seed includes much of the vocabulary needed to identify the parts of a dandelion. Pay particular attention to this when reading the story so children hear the words, such as taproot, seed head, and understand their meanings.

Main activity

Print out the next page and ask them to find words in the word bank to label the parts of the dandelion plant.



Word bank

leaf	taproot	stalk	bracts
bud	florets	petals	seeds

Name _____

PARTS OF A DANDELION

Word bank

leaf bract bud stalk
taproot petals seeds

