

# Exploding Seed Pod Activity

**Do this activity to see how some plants, like milkweed, disperse their seeds to repopulate!**

## Needed Materials

- A funnel
- A large balloon
- A sharp pencil to pop the balloon
- A tarp or bedsheet to spread on the ground outside
- Small seeds, like birdseed
- A ruler or measuring tape
- Activity observation sheets



## Instructions

1. Ask an adult to be your activity partner!
2. Stretch the open end of the balloon snugly over the small end of the funnel and then go outside.
3. Slowly and carefully pour the seeds down the funnel and into the balloon. This is your seed pod!
4. Fully blow up the balloon, tie the open end into a knot, and set it aside.
5. Spread your tarp or bedsheet on the ground.
6. Hand the balloon to your partner and ask them to hold it still.
7. Take your sharp pencil and carefully pop the balloon.
8. Observe what happens to the seeds when the balloon pops.
9. Follow the directions on your datasheet to complete the project.



# Exploding Seed Pod Observations: Page I

**Draw what you observed and label the components.**



**Did all of your seeds land on your tarp/bedsheet, or did some make it even further?**

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**Measure the distance your seeds traveled from the pod, and label the drawing with your measurements.**

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# Exploding Seed Pod Observations: Page II

How can you design a seed pod using a balloon, funnel, pencil, and seeds?

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Draw your model:

How does your model show tension building in a seed pod before it bursts?

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Draw how you created tension:

Test your model outside. How did you make your pod explode?

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What did you see when your pod burst?

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