

A Little History of a Big Seed

A

Many plants grow from tiny seeds. Then the plants make more seeds. Usually these seeds are very small so that they can easily travel far. For example, a dandelion seed is so small that the wind can carry it. The wind moves the dandelions to far places. This is how plants are able to spread over the land.

B

Fruit trees, like apple trees, also have seeds. Yet these seeds are different. These seeds are hidden inside fruit. When the fruit drops from the tree, animals come and eat the fruit. They also eat the seed. The animals cannot digest and break down the seeds and so the seeds pass through the animals and end up in their poop. Their poop is usually left in the soil. So then new fruit trees grow up from the seeds that ended up in the soil. In this way, animals help spread fruit tree seeds all over the land.

C


But have you ever eaten an avocado? Have you ever noticed how big the seed is? The seed is too big for small animals like birds, cats, monkeys, or deer to eat. These animals could eat the avocado but they would choke if they tried to swallow the whole seed. So how did the avocado plants get the seeds to travel away from the tree?

D


Well the answer is that the avocado fruit has been here since there were much, much bigger animals in the world. Thousands of years ago in South America, there were giant, colossal animals like the giant sloth. The giant sloth was bigger than an elephant! For animals this big, the avocado was a tiny fruit. They would eat up the whole avocado including the seed. Then they would poop the seed out. This is how the avocado tree spread all over South America. Today humans eat avocados and we plant new ones with the seeds. The tree still survives even though the animal it was designed for has been gone from the world for a long time.

#2 *A Little History of a Big Seed*

RI.3.3

1.  Color the sentences in the text that explain the relationship between a giant sloth and an avocado seed.

2. Write a paragraph describing how avocado seeds were spread during the time of the giant sloth. Use the words **first**, **then**, **next**, and **finally** in your paragraph.

3.  Color the text that explains the relationship between the wind and a dandelion.

Describe the connection between the wind and dandelion.

RI.3.0

4. Write one WORD to summarize the following paragraphs:

A. _____ B. _____

C. _____ D. _____

5. Underline three important words in the text.

6. Summarize what you read about how seeds are spread to new areas.

Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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RI.3.1

7. Write three questions where the answer could be found in the text. Then find the answer to your question and color it.

1. _____

Color the answer to your question 

2. _____

Color the answer to your question 

3. _____

Color the answer to your question 

RI.3.2

8. Write one WORD that describes the main idea of the text: _____

9. What are three key details in the text that support the main idea?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

10. Describe HOW one of these key details supports the main idea.

RI.3.4

11. Find the underlined word, digest in the text. Use the context clues to explain what this word means. Circle the words in the text that are a clue to the meaning of the word.

12. Find the underlined word, colossal in the text. Use the context clues to explain what this word means. Circle the words in the text that are a clue to the meaning of the word.
