

**Biodiversity and Interdependence****Curriculum links/skills**

Biodiversity and Interdependence
Memory Skills
Identification
Classification

**Active
game for
any age**

Link to video lesson: <https://youtu.be/SIqAILluM3M>

Resources needed

- School grounds/woodland area with trees/hedgerow
- Raisins or other biodegradable loose parts to represent acorns (raisins poisonous to dogs so avoid if dogs use area). 5-10 per child depending on age.
- Optional: collecting containers
- Seed identification chart eg Woodland Trust 'Fruit and Seeds Spotter Sheet'

Description of activity

Explore through nut caching game how some trees use animals to disperse their seeds. The children, pretending to be squirrels, hide their acorns (eg raisins) for winter food. Mark the passage of time by moving to another area and exploring other tree seed dispersal methods before returning to find the food caches. In this way consider how squirrels help oak seed dispersal and the interdependence of the species.

Different methods include heavy seeds such as acorns from the oak and conkers from the horse-chestnut are dropped, those in pods pop flinging out their seeds, those with wings like the helicopter sycamore seeds twirl in the wind, others have hooks to catch onto passing creatures or humans, those that grow close to water such as alders rely on their seeds floating away, others are so light they float on breeze, while berries rely on birds eating their soft flesh, the hard seeds being dropped or pooped with its own small helping of fertiliser. The children may design their own method.

Safety considerations

- Beforehand check the area for anything that might cause harm.
- Set boundaries of area children work in. Rule must always be able to see/hear you.
- Emphasize no seeds, nuts or berries (or raisins) to be eaten, avoid yew berries.

