

Copycat the Burdock



Burdock grows along roads and in open partings of the forest.

The seeds (burs) are spread because they stick to the fur of animals. They also stick to our clothing. When they drop off it is possible that a new plant will start to grow where the seed landed. This is the way a plant can spread over a big area.

1. Look at the seeds of the Burdock under the binoculair. Can you see the hooks at the end of the spikes? What is the benefit of this?

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The inventor of the Velcro tape had a good look at the seeds of the Burdock and wondered why the seeds were able to stay so stuck.

2. Look at the pieces of the Velcro tape (A and B) under the binoculair or under a loupe. Also investigate the sides.

A. Which piece of the Velcro tape resembles the seed of the Burdock the most?

A B

B. Which piece of the Velcro tape resembles the animal fur the most?

A B

3. Test how strong the Velcro tape is. On the table lies a plank with Velcro tape. Two students hold the plank at both ends. Be sure the handles are facing downwards. Hang an empty bucket on the handle. Fill the bucket with sand.

How much weight can hang on the Velcro tape?