

# SHORT FILM WORKSHEET



## Why Quaking Aspens Quake? Tree Adaptations

Quaking aspens are one of the few trees that has leaves with with flat stems. This makes them quake in the wind that is typical of the mountain habitat where they are found. What is the advantage of this strange adaptation? The most obvious advantage is to scatter fierce wind without damaging the tree. Can you think of other adaptations that might help a tree survive better in its habitat? Look at the following tree features and explain how the adaptation might help the tree in it's habitat. (Hint: all the adaptations below help their tree in a similar way.)

1. The berries of a mountain ash



2. The helicopter seeds of maples and linden trees



3. The parachute seeds of the cottonwood tree



4. The acorn seed of the oak tree



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_



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1. Berries are eaten by birds and other animals and "spread" to other places.

2. Maple seeds (samaras) spin like helicopter blades to spread to other places and take root.

3. Fluff seeds blow in the wind to spread to other places and take root.

4. Acorns and other nut-like seeds are buried by animals for the winter and if left will sprout in the spring into a new tree.

