

**Word Bank:**

seed

spore

plant

fern

Spores vs. Seeds

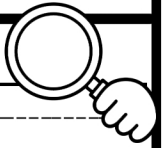
Not all plants grow the same way. Flowering plants, like sunflowers, grow from seeds. A seed holds a baby plant along with its own supply of food, all wrapped inside a protective coat. Ferns are different. Ferns don't make flowers or seeds at all. Instead, they make spores. A spore is much smaller than a seed and doesn't carry any stored food inside it. Spores are so light that they can float on the wind for a long time before they land somewhere new. Ferns keep their spores in tiny cases called sori, found on the underside of their leaflets. When the spores are ready, the sori split open and release them into the air. Both spores and seeds have the same job: starting a brand-new plant. They just go about it in very different ways.

1. What does a seed carry inside it that a spore does not?

2. Where do ferns keep their spores?

3. Why can spores travel farther on the wind than some seeds?

4. Name one plant that grows from a seed and one that grows from a spore.



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1. What does a seed carry inside it that a spore does not?

A seed carries its own stored food supply inside it.

2. Where do ferns keep their spores?

Ferns keep their spores in tiny cases called sori, on the underside of their leaflets.

3. Why can spores travel farther on the wind than some seeds?

Sample answer: Spores are very small and light, so the wind can carry them a long way.

4. Name one plant that grows from a seed and one that grows from a spore.

Sample answer: A sunflower grows from a seed, and a fern grows from a spore.