

## Milkweed Seeds

By Robert Lerosé

A seedpod sits at the top of a five-foot-tall stalk where this milkweed plant's colorful head of flowers used to be. (You can see a photo of milkweed flowers on pages 4-5.) Months ago, you might have seen butterflies and other insects visiting its many small, nectar-filled flowers. After the flowers wilted, a few of them developed into seed-filled pods like this one.

Each pod grows slowly over a few months.

Inside it, 200 or more neatly stacked seeds develop.

The seeds have fluffy strands, called floss or coma.

Seeds fall to the ground or ride on the wind to new spots, where they might grow into new milkweed plants.

When the seeds are ripe, the pod splits open.