



Backyard Bird Feeder



In this lesson, children will learn how to make a bird feeder to attract birds in their yard.

BACKGROUND:

Bird feeders provide an important and easily accessible food supply for birds when food sources are unavailable due to shrinking habitat and limited resources. Feeders can provide food during cold winters or hot summers when some plant species are dormant.

MATERIALS:

- 65 large craft sticks or popsicle sticks
 - Fun alternative: have young ones gather sticks broken down to 7 to 8 inches long
- Non-toxic craft glue
- Twine or heavy string
- Wild birdseed



PROCEDURE:

- Have a discussion as a family about what animals need to survive and how humans can supplement those needs and observe animal behavior.
- Begin construction of bird feeder from the bottom up. Lay 12 craft sticks flat to form bottom. Lay two sticks across each end and glue to top of base sticks. Continue to layer craft sticks in a log cabin style, 10 sticks high. Add four "pillar" upright sticks and make two roof pieces with the same procedure as the bottom base. Wrap twine at each end of one craft stick to use as top brace for the roof and hanger and attach roof pieces to it. Finally, place on upright pillar sticks and glue together.
- Hang bird feeder on tree branch. Fill with bird seed and observe the different species of birds that visit your feeder.

CONCLUSION:

Have a conversation to discuss area food sources for different species of birds, such as nectar for hummingbirds.

Learn more at:



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