



Winter bird feeder

Subject: Science



Learning
through
Landscapes

Overview

- This activity will give pupils important contact with nature and improve their understanding of local wildlife. Natural food sources are least abundant in winter so birds that do not migrate need our support to get high-fat foods.

Learning Outcomes

- To understand the changing seasonal needs of local wildlife.
- To follow instructions accurately to create a bird feeder.

Equipment

- Suet, lard, vegetable fat or coconut oil
- Wild bird seed, pumpkin or sunflower seeds
- String
- Pinecones

Activity

1. Pupils should identify a sheltered area where small birds have been seen.
2. Working in pairs or small groups, pupils should mix a handful of bird seed with a handful of lard or fat and shape it into a ball or another shape.
3. String can be used to hang the feeder up, out of reach of larger animals such as cats or dogs.
4. Alternatively, pupils can push the mix into a pinecone and hang it up.
5. Once you offer a food supply it is a good idea to sustain it as birds may rely upon it in the winter.

Further activities

Literacy and Language	Non-chronological reports	Research the birds that visit and write a fact file
	Diaries and recounts	Write about a day or a year in the life of a bird
Art and Design	Sketch books	Sketch the different birds that visit
	Produce creative work	Design their own bird feeder or a feeder for another animal
Geography	Physical geography	Learn about microclimates and seasonal differences
		Discuss bird migration, why birds migrate, and where to
Mathematics	Data Handling	Observe the type and frequency of birds visiting and create tally charts and graphs to show the data collected

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