



Birds

Create a bird feeder with craft sticks

Age: 7-14

Topic: Supporting wildlife

Time: 1 hour



What should learners already know?

- Birds of many different species are under threat due to human actions like habitat loss.
- We can support bird populations in our local area by creating habitats for them.

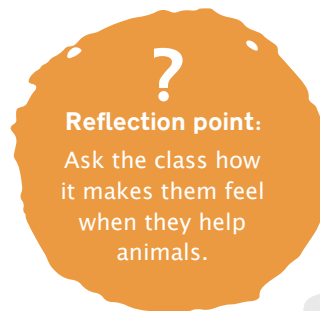
What equipment will I need?

- 35-45 craft sticks.
- Glue gun and glue sticks.
- Ruler.
- Scissors.
- String.
- Bird food.



Why is it important to support bird populations in your school grounds?

- Use this exercise as a springboard to discuss conservation at the local scale with children in your class.
- Encourage the class to think about some human behaviours which may be harmful to wild birds, e.g habitat destruction and degradation, poaching and pollution.
- Ask children to reflect on why it is important to them to help bird populations in their school grounds and local area.
- Providing food is one way to encourage bird populations; can children think of any others?



How will learners explore this?

1. Take one craft stick and cut it in half. Take two craft sticks and use scissors or a needle to make holes at both ends (this will be used to thread string through later).
2. Line 8 craft sticks up on the table side by side, to make a panel. Secure these craft sticks by taking another two craft sticks and gluing them onto the panel perpendicularly at either end.
3. Flip the panel over. Take two more craft sticks and glue them perpendicularly to either end of the panel, as you did before, to make 'layer 1'. Now take two more craft sticks, and glue the ends of each craft stick to the ends of the sticks forming 'layer 1', laying them out perpendicularly. Repeat this, sticking 2 craft sticks perpendicular to the layer below, until you have 5 layers. This will form the dish for the bird food.
4. Once you have created this, take the two half-length sticks created in layer 1 and glue them sticking out from layer 5 to form a perch for birds to sit on while feeding. Continue layering until there are 5 more layers.
5. Cut two pieces of string to roughly 45 cm in length, and take the two craft sticks you made holes in earlier. Thread either end of a piece of string through the hole at either end of a stick, then tie at the bottom and secure with craft glue. Repeat with the second stick and string.
6. Now glue the two sticks with string on top of the bird feeder, effectively making another layer.
7. You are almost done! Finally, you must decide where you want to hang your bird feeder, and how far you want it to hang down. Cut a piece of string to an appropriate length, and tie it in a loop connecting both other pieces of string, so that your feeder looks like a pyramid. Now, hang it up!
8. Make sure to fill this bird feeder up weekly, and wash it regularly with warm soapy water!

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

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