

Hello Trees Resource Sheet



KS1 Y1 Science Diary Item

Making Winter Bird Feeders



You don't have to use every Science Diary suggestion!
You don't have to do everything on this sheet! Bits in **bold** recommended.

OBJECTIVE: MAKE A WINTER BIRD FEEDER

WHAT YOU NEED

1. **All set up to watch video**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0CdAqPzsm4>
2. **Unwanted Christmas wreath(s) and/or bits of bark or wood**
3. **A place to hang the feeder(s) & string or ribbon to hang it(them)**
4. **A large mixing bowl**
5. **Lard**
6. **Bird seed and/or peanut butter, bits of mild cheddar, bits of dried or fresh fruit, unsalted nuts, seeds ...**



✓ SEASONAL CHANGES ✓ day length observe ✓ changes over time
Winter, cold, fewer daylight hours for feeding: birds need extra feed.

✓ ANIMALS ✓ PLANTS

✓ **Curiosity and questioning** (all suggestions acceptable):

What do birds feed on? [fruits, seeds, nuts, insects, mice ...]

What food does nature supply to birds in Winter? [Fruits left over from Autumn – increasingly scarce.]

We no longer see bees, butterflies flying around, nor caterpillars, aphids and other insects crawling around. Where have they gone? [died off, hibernating, hiding under rocks, in holes in wood, under leaves, in our houses – anywhere where it is a bit warmer than in the open. Swallows and other bird species have flown away to where it is warmer.]

WATCH VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0CdAqPzsm4> **about feeding birds in winter.** Note: There is no need to heat suet or lard: pupils will love to squelch the dry ingredients into soft lard. See

Recap on food for birds.

Which foods do we like to eat in Summer and Winter? [salads in Summer, fatty foods (eg sausages?) and food like rice pudding and potatoes in Winter.

Discuss hanging vs scattering the bird food [small mammals (squirrels? mice? rats?) might eat food on the ground. Is that OK? (want it for the birds, don't want to encourage rats)]

Decide how the class will create bird feeder(s). [wreath, bark, wood, yogurt pots etc as in video]

Decide where and how the class will hang bird feeder(s). [on a post/on a twig or branch]

Create bird feeders by mixing dry ingredients into lard and smearing it on wreaths or bits of bark or wood. See '[Bird Feeder Wreath](#)' at [Hello Trees Resources](#), or as in the video.

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WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

✓ Experience and observe:

What do we want to know about the birds feeding on our feeder? [What time of day? What size of bird? What species of bird?]

Work out ways to answer questions. [It is OK to discard some questions as being unanswerable by the class, e.g. what species, how many feed at dawn ...]

✓ Record:

Set up a schedule to observe the birds coming to the feeder [Count the number of birds at particular times and keep tally using 5-bar gates]

✓ **Curiosity and questioning** (all suggestions acceptable):

What could be the reason for a feeder getting no/more/fewer bird visitors? [nowhere to perch? too exposed? Too hidden?]

How can we test to answer our questions? [move the feeder, change the feed]

✓ **Tests to answer questions:**



1. Move the feeder to somewhere more or less exposed.
2. Install a perch under the feeder or move it to above a branch.

Results depending on whether more or fewer birds feed in the new position.

x school locality:

x grow our own: promise to plant some sunflower/teezle/... seeds in Spring.

✓ ANIMALS ✓ notice patterns, compare: share comments on the beaks, feet, size of the birds that visit the feeder. How do these characteristics help the birds to feed?

✓ Use secondary sources of information: ✓ group and **classify**:

identify and name the birds where possible:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCngPMIOFok>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/12/top-15-winter-birds/>

✓ Develop scientific language:



Carbohydrates are the kind of food that gives animals – and us – energy.

Potatoes and rice are rich in carbohydrates.

Fats are the kind of food that help animals to store energy.

Oils, lard, butter and nuts are rich in fats.

Carbohydrates are measured in calories. **Look at food labels of food for the feeder.**

✓ Communicate what they find: ✓ To different audiences and ✓ In different ways: as ever

x EVERYDAY MATERIALS x Identify and name everyday materials

x Properties of everyday materials

SCIENCE DIARY ENTRY: We made a bird feeder. We put lard and seeds on a [Christmas wreath]. We hung the feeder outside. We saw [robins and blue tits] eating the food on the feeder.

Photo/drawing/painting of feeder/birds feeding on the feeder.