



Birds

Requirements

1. Name five birds you see around your home.
2. Name the official bird of your region, province, state or country.
3. Name three kinds of bird food (Black Oil Sunflower seeds, thistle, corn, mixed seeds, striped sunflower seeds).
4. Draw a picture of a bird, then use a mixture of bird seeds to fill it in.
5. Make a pinecone bird feeder and hang it in your yard. Tell how many birds come to feed from it.
6. Name two birds mentioned in the Bible (eagle, dove, sparrow, raven).
7. Know two bird sounds and pretend you are that bird.

Updated in: Unknown / Grade Unknown

Supporting Answers

1. Here is a link to find common birds in your area.

This will allow you to make a list of 5 birds

<https://fatbirder.com/world-birding/australasia-or-oceania/>

<http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/checklist.jsp>

These sites will allow you to find lists from regions all over the world. The lists are in English.

It is a good idea to print off or show pictures of the birds on your local list so that the Early Birds can start to recognize the birds from the list in their home environments.

Teaching Idea: Art Gallery Walk

Materials: printed pictures of different birds in your local area (Creative Commons free images may be available at sites like flickr.com)

Directions: Print the images full page. Post them on the walls around your meeting area. Put on bird sounds or a bird themed soundtrack. Have children and their parents or small groups go and look at each picture. Have them identify color of feathers, color of beak, size (little, medium, big). Have small versions of each bird picture available for Early Birds and parents to collect for the page in their activity book.

2. Name the official bird of your region, province, state, or nation.

This is a link to a list of National Birds

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_birds

3. Types of Bird Food

- Sunflower Seeds (black oil is preferred)
- Cracked Corn
- Fruit
- Mealworms
- Millet
- Nyjer

- Oats
- Peanuts (shelled or unshelled)
- Suet
- Sugar Water

4. Procedure: This requirement is pretty self-explanatory. The simpler and larger the drawing is, the more easily the Early Birds will find it to “color” it by gluing different colored seeds on the picture. Craft glue works best. Do not water down the glue because many seeds are rather heavy and will fall off easily. It is best to have the children paint the glue onto a section of the picture with a paint brush or their fingers, put seeds on that section, then move to another section of the picture.

5. If you have easy access to pinecones, it is easy to make a bird feeder as described below. If you don’t have access to pinecones, there are some ideas below on other ways to make a simple bird feeder so that Early Birds are able to name some of the birds they see coming to eat from their feeder. Remember to ask for the report about the birds they saw during another meeting time.

Pinecone Version

What You Need

- Pinecone
- Yarn
- Peanut Butter
- Margarine
- Bird Seed

Instructions

1. Find a large pinecone.
2. Tie a three to four-foot piece of yarn around the top of the pinecone for the hanger.
3. Mix two tablespoons of peanut butter with two tablespoons of margarine.
4. Spread the peanut butter and margarine mixture onto the pinecone.
5. Pour some bird seed onto a plate or shallow dish and roll the pinecone in it.
6. Place the seed-covered pinecones in the freezer for about an hour or until it is firm.

7. Hang it outside in a tree!

Non-Pine Cone Version #1

Seed Ball:

What You Need

- Flour
- Water
- Bird Seed Mix
- Foil
- Something to grease the foil with
- Wire for hanging
- Oven for baking the Seed Ball

Instructions

1. Create a smooth paste with 2 tablespoons flour and 4 tablespoons water.
2. Mix in 1 cup of bird seed or seed mix.
3. Place it onto a piece of greased foil
4. Shape this mixture into a bell or ball.
5. Push a loop of wire through the center for hanging.
6. Leaving the foil slightly open at the top bake in a moderate oven for half an hour.

Non-Pinecone Version #2

Fat Cake:

What you Need

- Bowl for mixing dry mix
- Lard or suet (do not use turkey fat because it does not harden properly)
- Saucepan
- Spoon
- String or twine
- Old yoghurt pots or containers
- Dry bird feed mix of any of the following: wild bird seed, currants, sultanas, oats, bread and cake crumbs, grated cheese and/or peanuts.

Instructions

NOTE: The best ratio for this recipe is one-part fat (lard or suet) to two parts dry mixture.

1. Mix all your dry ingredients together in a bowl.
2. Melt the lard or suet in a pan and add the dry mix.
3. Stir well until the fat has all been absorbed and the mixture sticks together.
4. Make a hole in the bottom of a yoghurt pot (personal serving sized container) and thread through a length of twine or string.
5. Pack the pot with your warm fat mixture.
6. Place in the fridge overnight to set.
7. Remove from fridge, then cut through and peel away the pot.
8. Tie a big knot at one end of the twine to secure the cake.
9. Hang the cake in a tree or shrub and wait for the birds to come and feast.

6. Requirement: Birds mentioned in the Bible.

Procedure: Help the Early Birds explore how to discover this information by showing them how to use a concordance or an online Bible search tool. Try the names of birds that are common in your area. Remember that we are encouraging each Early Bird to think of stories on their own. It is okay for them to brainstorm with parents or other Early Birds.

Here are a few passages to get you started:

- Owl - Zephaniah 2:14
- Dove - Genesis 8:8-12 (flood story)
- Sparrow - Matthew 10:29-31
- Raven - 1 Kings 17:1-6 (Elijah story)

7. You will need to find a device that has bird sounds recorded. Once you have practiced a common bird sound from your area, talk about how birds act and then pretend with the Early Birds that you are all a type of bird you learned to sound for. Remember that in addition to flying, birds scratch or peck for food, they wash in water, they sit on nests of various types, etc.
8. Search online: Birds sounds calls (your state, province, country), or on Youtube. Preview clips you download.