



BUILD YOUR OWN BIRD FEEDER

Make a bird feeder out of recycled materials to foster both plants and wildlife.





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About the Activity

Wildlife and gardening go together like s'mores at a campfire. Without plants, wildlife would not exist, and without wildlife, plants would not exist. They work together and support the circle of life. Learn how you can support both by making a bird feeder using recyclable and compostable materials.

This activity is part of our 4-H At-Home Garden Series. See the rest of the activities here.



Supplies

These simple supplies are all you'll need for this activity. Some of these, like the seeds, you may need to find at a plant store:

- Toilet paper roll or paper towel roll
- Peanut butter or glue
- Bird seeds
- Yarn/string
- Plate
- Butter knife

Grades: 3-8

Topic: STEM, Biology

Time: 30 minutes





Activity Steps

Build Your Own Bird Feeder -

1

Set up your workstation with a plate and a butter knife.

DID YOU KNOW? Did You Know? Decomposers like earthworms and Roly-Poly bugs are so important for gardening because they decompose organic materials and break it down in the best soil you can get, usually called “Black Gold.”

2

Pour the bird seeds on to the plate.

DID YOU KNOW? Some examples of pollinators are bees, bats, butterflies, hummingbirds, and even lizards! They play an important role in gardening, because if a flower is not pollinated, plants cannot produce fruit or seeds.

3

Grab your toilet paper or paper towel roll and cover it with peanut butter using a butter knife. If you do not have peanut butter, glue will work too!

DID YOU KNOW? Toilet paper and paper towel rolls are made of cardboard, which is totally compostable! In fact, cardboard is one of the decomposer's favorite snacks!

4

After your roll is covered in peanut butter or glue, completely cover it with the bird seeds so the seeds stick to the surface.

DID YOU KNOW? Plants provide shelter for wildlife; they can be a place to lay eggs, an important food source, and protection from other predators or severe weather and fruits, and group together the plants that are similar – this is called classification, and without a classification system, identifying all of those plants in the world would be pretty difficult.

5

Put a piece of yarn or a string through the roll, and hang it somewhere near your garden, like from a tree branch!

DID YOU KNOW? Wildlife can spread plant seeds through their scat or poop. If you ever see a strange plant growing in a strange area, it probably got there from an animal's scat.

6

Hang back, and watch the birds flock to your recycled bird feeder!

DID YOU KNOW? If you ever see a pollinator like a bee or a butterfly in your garden, don't bother them, and don't be afraid! Their job is to gather food and to pollinate. They are not out there to hurt you!



Test Your Knowledge

See how much you've learned about wildlife in the garden!

QUESTION 1

Which is NOT a decomposer?

- a. Earthworm
- b. Snake
- c. Roly-Polys

QUESTION 2

Which of the following is a pollinator?

- a. House cats
- b. Hummingbirds
- c. Hamsters

QUESTION 3

Which of the following is compostable?

- a. Plastic
- b. Rubber
- c. Cardboard

QUESTION 4

Wildlife can spread plant seeds through scat or poop.

- a. Yes, definitely.
- b. No, it cannot.

QUESTION 5

What should you do if you see a pollinator in the garden?

- a. Disturb the pollinator
- b. Scream
- c. Leave it alone

Reflection Questions

Bonus questions to inspire wonder:

- How do wildlife and plants benefit each other?
- Can wildlife that could hurt plants? If so, how?
- What would happen if no one pollinated plants? Think of everyday items that would be affected by it.



Investigate & Explore

Take your new knowledge
to the next level.



Our actions influence so much in our environment. It's up to us to help our plants and wildlife. Let's learn to appreciate nature!

If you see a bee, let them work so that way we can continue to have food on our plate and clothes on our back. If you see trash heading for a water source, pick it up and keep plants and animals from getting hurt.

Once your garden is up and growing, spend time looking at it to see all the different kinds of wildlife that interact with your garden!

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