

# Activity Organization



**Birds**

Email completed template to: [thenninger@ncarboretum.org](mailto:thenninger@ncarboretum.org)

## Submitted By:

Carrie Erb, William W. Estes Elementary

## Overview

This lesson will help attract more birds and squirrels to your school property. This is a simple hands on lesson that can be completed with a few simple cheap supplies.

## Grade Levels

First and second grade

## Curriculum Correlation

1. L. 1., 1. L. 2, 2. L. 1

## Duration

1 hour

## Location

The project will start in the classroom for creation of food/house items. The project will conclude outside of the school somewhere on the school property.

## Materials

(Let the kids brainstorm how to attract more birds and squirrels to your school property. Below is a general list that most students will come up with.)

Peanut Butter

Bird Seed

Circular Cereal with holes

String

Plastic Knives

Pine Cones

# Activity Organization



**Birds**

Binoculars

Science Journal

## Learning Targets

I can come up with ideas of how to attract more birds and squirrels to my school.

I can make more food options for the birds and squirrels at my school.

## Educators Information

Find a place on your school property that would be an easy place to observe the wildlife that visit your school during the day. Also make sure this area has places to add food sources for the wildlife of the school. Send out an email asking the staff and the student population to refrain from touching or moving the food sources that are put out on the school property.

## Procedure

Pose the question: How can we attract more birds and squirrels to our school?

Allow time for the students to brainstorm ideas in their science journal.

Have the students turn and talk with a partner about what they think will attract more birds and squirrels to the school.

Have the students share their ideas out loud.

From the students' ideas, create a class hypothesis. Record on an anchor chart.

Create a list of supplies that will help fulfill the hypothesis.

Send an email to parents asking to help supply the supplies.

When supplies arrive, have the students work in groups to create the materials. (Ex. put peanut butter on pine cones and then roll in bird seed, put cereal on long strings)

# Activity Organization



**Birds**

Take created materials out to chosen spot on school property.

Before putting out the food options for the wildlife, take time to observe how many wildlife are in the area for a short amount of time (like 10 minutes). Students can use their binoculars to observe and record the number of birds and squirrels in their science journal. This number of animals will become your baseline. Hang out the food options and record by taking pictures. Return to the room and record the date and baseline information about the number of squirrels and birds in the area on the anchor chart.

Each day for the next several days, go out and observe where the food sources were hung and quietly observe (with binoculars) to count how many squirrels and birds are in the area. Also observe any changes in the food options that were put out, for example: is some food missing, can you tell if animals have visited the food sources, etc.

Once in the room, record observations on the anchor chart.

After several days, conclude the experiment by making a conclusion about whether adding the food sources to the school property attracted more birds and squirrels to the school property. Write the conclusion on the anchor chart.



## Supplemental Reading

Find bird books that could help the students identify the birds that visit their school.



## Extensions

Research wildlife that is common in the area around the school.

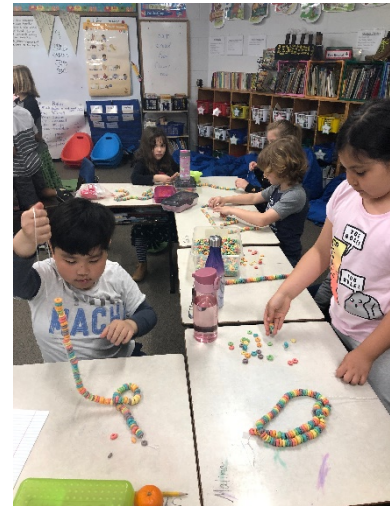
# Activity Organization



Birds



Resources



# Activity Organization



Birds

