

KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE: LIVING THINGS

BIRDS

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

- There are over 10000 species of birds in the world!
- They have a wide variety of diets including insects, seeds, fruit & meat.
- Contrary to popular belief- bread is not a healthy snack for birds.
- Instead unsalted seeds, nuts, cracked corn & fruit, are better options.



ACTIVITY: BIRD FOOD BALLS

Allow the lard to warm to room temperature. Break into smaller pieces. Pour bird seed and put lard into the tub and allow kids to explore the texture of the two ingredients together with their hands. Encourage students to roll into ping pong sized balls. Place into mesh bag and hang outside using string. Find a hiding place nearby to observe birds. What birds do you see?



MATERIALS

- Lard/Suet
- Unsalted Bird Seed
- String
- Tub or tray
- Mesh Bag (produce bag)

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Consider allergies- some bird seed mixes contain nuts.
- Consider cultural rules around handling animal fat.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Best done in the winter months or early spring when the birds need it most. Lard can also go rancid in warmer weather.

TAKING IT FURTHER

- Field Trip- Natural spaces like the river valley, North East Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands & Beaver Creek afford prime bird watching habitat. [Click here to book.](#)
- Expert- Book a virtual guest presenter, like a Meewasin interpreter to learn more. [Click here to book.](#)

EXTENSIONS

- Math- Make predictions about the number of different coloured birds you will see, keep a tally while outside & graph afterwards.
- Physical Education- Play migration headache. [Link to video.](#)
- Language Arts- Make a descriptive word web of the birds seen.

RESOURCES

- Meewasin Birding Video- [Click here.](#)
- Merlin Bird ID excellent app for identifying birds.
- PowerPoint with common local birds. [Click here.](#)
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology- Abundant info on birds. [Link.](#)

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- Why are there less birds around in the winter?
- How do birds stay warm in the cold?

HOME CONNECTION

- What birds can you see in your backyard or local green space?

DID YOU KNOW?

Meewasin helps support bird science research with its annual bird counts? [Learn more.](#)