

Activity Lesson Plan

Make your own Hummingbird Feeder via The Crafting Chicks



This activity is a great way to teach kids simple construction skills and allows them to watch for hummingbirds in a yard or porch. This is also a great way to teach about recycling materials. Parent involvement is necessary for younger kids, but this can be a fun activity for most kids grades 1-6 and involves common household items.

Overall Goal of Activity:

The goal of this activity is to build a hummingbird feeder to attract hummingbirds to your yard or porch.

Subjects/Concepts Covered:

This activity teaches engineering and fine motor skills, as well as discussing biology concepts like animal adaptations.

Age Group:

This activity is great for grades 1-6.

Materials:

- Water or juice bottle
- Straws
- Scissors
- Hot Glue Gun
- Red and Yellow foam sheets
- Wet Wipes (for cleaning sticky nectar)
- Rope or twine
- Sugar

Procedure:

1. Draw and cut out flower shapes (or circles) in the red foam and smaller circles in the yellow foam. The flowers and circles should have a hole for the straw. Glue the yellow circles on the red flowers to make a flower.
2. Cut a straw into four pieces and poke holes in the bottle for these straws. Put the straws through the holes and glue the bottle so they stay.

3. Glue the flowers over the straws.
4. Attach the rope or twine to the neck of the bottle to hang it from a tree or window frame.
5. Next, make the hummingbird food. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar (any real sugar works) with two cups of water. Either boil this mixture or let it sit until the sugar dissolves completely.
6. Pour the mixture into the bottle. Hang it somewhere visible and shaded. It may take a few days for the hummingbirds to find it.
7. Make sure you change the water 2-3 times a week, because it will ferment in the bottle in the warmth.

Explanation/Background:

Hummingbirds are one of the few birds adapted to be pollinators. Their long, thin bills, fast-moving wings, and extremely high metabolism are all adaptations for relying on nectar for most of their diet. Because of this, a normal bird feeder with seeds or suet doesn't work for the hummingbirds; they need flowers. These hummingbird feeders are designed to give them the sugar they need even when their preferred flowers aren't in bloom or aren't nearby. Some hummingbird species are very territorial and will defend the hummingbird feeder, keeping the sugar water for themselves. If this happens, you can build a second feeder and put it somewhere away from this first feeder so other hummingbirds can use it.

Other Resources/Further Information:

If you want to attract other birds to your yard, try these DIY bird feeders.

<https://www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/how-to/g3060/diy-bird-feeders/>

If you want to attract more pollinators to your yard, try planting a pollinator garden in pots or a garden plot:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

