

Bird Seed Investigation Activity



Materials Needed

- Bird seed (choose 3–4 kinds)
- Mixed seed
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Regular sunflower seed
- Millet
- Shelled / cracked corn
- Peanuts
- Labeled open dishes (ex. paper plate or bowl, plastic container)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Bird ID options
- Bird Tracking sheet (1 / student)
- Menu sheet (1 / student)
- Arts and crafts supplies

Directions

- It may take birds some time before finding new sources of food, we recommend placing bird food out a few days before doing this investigation with students.
- Check with students for any specific food allergies before beginning.
- Ask students to name some of their favorite foods.
- Explain to students that just like people, different birds have different food preferences. Today we will be doing an experiment to see what kind of seeds different species of birds prefer.
 - Have students fill each dish with a different kind of bird seed.
 - Label each dish of seed.
 - Go outside and place the seed containers in a spot where birds are likely to visit. If possible, find a spot that is visible from a window.
 - Take students back inside to observe from a window or have them quietly gather outside away from the dishes. If you have binoculars, students could use them to observe the birds from a distance.
 - As students see birds visiting the seeds, they should record their findings.
 - » If no birds are seen, students can research birds in the local area.
 - To help students identify birds
 - » Use the birds identified in Ruby's Birds
 - » Download The Cornell Lab Merlin app
 - » Use a bird ID book from the library
 - » Visit the following website:
<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/bird-id/>

Bird Tracker

Type of Seed	Species and Number of Bird
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	BLUE JAY (2) SPARROW (1) MOURNING DOVE (2)

Bird Restaurant Menu

Now that we've seen our local birds' food preferences, let's pretend our building is a restaurant serving our local birds.

Design your own restaurant menu. Fill in the blank areas as directed and add your own fun personality to your place!

Restaurant name, type of restaurant, and website

Menu Items

Food Item 1 with description, price, and picture

Food Item 2 with description, price, and picture

Food Item 3 with description, price, and picture

Specialties

Specialty 1 with description, price, and picture

Specialty 2 with description, price, and picture

Drinks