

Bird Feeder Activity



Students will build simple bird feeders. They have some basic materials and can add anything they can find around the house. Remind students to think like engineers and consider ideas for bird feeders. For this activity, the *engineering constraint* is that the materials for the feeders *must be recyclable materials* (or materials that could be reused for a new purpose.)

Materials:

- Heavy Twine
- Chopsticks
- Plastic tub and lid (currently holding bird seed)
- Bird Seed in tub

Other materials to be considered:

- Clean half-gallon or quart size milk cartons
- Peanut butter
- Ribbon
- Cardboard tubes
- Plastic plates
- Craft or popsicle sticks
- Plastic Water or Pop bottles
- Assortment of bird food such as bird seed, popped popcorn, stale bread, or leftover fruit

Bird Feeder Engineering - Journaling Ideas and Questions

- What bird are you most interested in?
- What does your bird eat?
- What problems might we have with building a feeder for our bird?
- Sketch your idea for helping your bird get the food it need
- What recyclable materials might you use?
- What time of day would food need to be in your bird feeder? Why?
- Where are you placing your bird feeder? Explain.
- What other changes might you make to your bird feeder?

Other Ideas for Feeders

- Orange skin halves can be filled with a blend of lard and seeds and hung in a tree to make a biodegradable fatty feeder.
- Pine cones make great fatty bird feeders. They can be rubbed in lard or peanut butter and dipped into your choice of seed blend.
- A used cardboard tube from kitchen or toilet roll makes a great feeder



