



Suggested pre activity

Take children to the park to collect cones and heat them and watch them open over the period of a month.

Get children to measure and cut the string and tie them onto their Pine cones once open.

Preparation time

30 minutes for 30 child class (assuming all ingredients have been previously obtained and collected)

Suggested activity time

20 mins

You will need:

Ingredients - These quantities are to suit a group of 5 children:

- One Pine cone per child
- 20cm of String per child
- Lard - 1 bar 250g per group
- Bird seed - 300g per group
- Tubs/ mixing bowl
- Suet - a fifth of a box (200g) / 40g per group
- Dried Mealworms - 10g (200g/per box)
- Sultanas - 100g per group

Although Lard is better for birds because of its high fat content, Cookeen can be used as an alternative to lard. This would be necessary when working with children who are vegan or with Muslim beliefs.

Enjoy watching and recording your garden bird visitors as they indulge in these easy to make feeders!

For this activity, it is a good idea to collect Pine cones at least 1 month prior to the class making the feeders. Store them in a warm location so as they will open up, making them easier to work with! Otherwise, heat them in an oven for 1 hour at 200°C.

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Method:

When using the lard, keep it at room temperature before use, this makes it easier to use.

Add bird seed and raisins to the lard. If you want to provide gourmet feeders, then add in mealworms. Mix all together – just like a cake mixture.

If you are using dried mealworms*, make sure to soak the dried mealworms before adding them to your mixture – this will make them a bit juicer for the birds!

Once this has been done, tie a piece of string around the pine cone and cover it with the mixture.

Hang the feeder

All you have to do now is find a suitable area in your garden or in the park. If it's in your garden choose somewhere you can see from inside your house and watch the birds flock to your feeder.

Extended activity

See over for suggested pre activity

After making the feeders take children to the park or the school grounds to hang their feeders and then encourage parents to go to the park to see their feeder, within a day or two they won't recognise it!!

Curriculum links and learning outcomes

The Curriculum links and learning outcomes that are particular to the tree activities are included on the Autumn Programme sheet. In addition to those there are Mathematical learning outcomes associated with this activity.

Mathematics

Pupils should be enabled to:

- develop skills in estimation of 'weight', volume/capacity;
- appreciate important ideas about measurement, including the continuous nature of measurement and the need for appropriate accuracy;

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