

Hungry as a Bird (Pre-K)

Science, Language Arts, Music, and Visual Arts

Summary: Students study eating habits of birds and work with senior citizens to create pinecone bird feeders for the seniors' homes, the school campus, and a senior retirement home.

Service and Learning Activities

Preparation: Students discuss the kinds of foods birds eat. How much food does a bird need to eat each day to survive? Where and how do birds find food? What natural and environmental dangers could endanger or kill birds (e.g., predators, fertilizers, pesticides, poisons)? Chart the dangers. Discuss how to provide safe food for birds. Where are the best places to position a bird feeder so cats and other predators cannot attack the birds, and so squirrels do not eat the food? Read books and stories about birds, such as *Burgess' Bird Book for Children*.

Action: The teacher arranges a field trip to a senior citizen home so students can create pinecone bird feeders with the seniors. The students prepare a bird-themed song to perform for the seniors. The students create pine cone bird feeders with the seniors. Take a pine cone, attach a string, cover with peanut butter, and roll in birdseed. The seniors and students go outside and hang the feeders, and the students take one to hang at their home and some for the school campus.

Reflection: Students discuss what they learned about birds. They create pictures of birds and send them to their senior friends. How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

Demonstration: Students can create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

Standards

Science: The student
SC.G.1.1 Understands the competitive, interdependent, cyclic nature of living things in the environment.

Language Arts: The student
LA.C.1.1 Uses listening strategies effectively.
LA.C.2.1 Uses viewing strategies effectively.
LA.C.3.1 Uses speaking strategies effectively.

Visual Arts: The student
VA.A.1.1 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes.

Music: The student
MU.A.1.1 Sings, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

Academic Objectives

- Learn what foods a bird needs to survive
- Create a plan to help create and distribute bird feeders

Assessment(s): Bird feeders and response to books and stories

Service Objectives

- Interaction with the senior citizens to providing them with entertainment, companionship
- Creation of bird feeders

Assessment(s): Increase in amount and types of birds observed in areas where feeders were placed and seniors' response to the activities with the students