

BACKYARD BIRDS



OBJECTIVE:

In this activity students will learn the benefits of birds, how litter affects birds, and how they can help protect our backyard friends.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Knoxville has been a certified Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation since 2017.

BENEFITS OF BIRDS:

- Pollination
- Pest and Rodent Control
- Caring for birds by providing food and habitat encourages spending time outside and teaches the importance of nurturing nature.
- Watching birds, interacting with them, listening to their songs, and taking the time to work outdoors improving their habitat can help relieve stress and promote well-being.

HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD:

Attract a wide variety of birds to your yard by providing them with basic needs: food, water and shelter. Examples include: a bird bath, birdhouse, bird feeders, and bird friendly plants and trees.

HOW LITTER HURTS BIRDS

One small piece of litter may not seem like much, but even minor amounts of trash can be devastating to birds in several ways.

Depending on the specific type of litter, it can affect birds in several ways:

- Poisoning (ex: moldy food, cigarette butts)
- Digestive Blockage (ex. plastic litter)
- Injuries (ex. broken glass)
- Plumage Disruption (ex. oil spills)
- Habitat Loss (ex. dumping)
- Attracting Predators (ex. discarded food)

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- The Three Rs: Reduce, reuse, and recycle. The less litter is produced, the less there will be to affect the birds.
- Pick Up Litter. When out for a walk, pick up litter you find or organize a litter clean-up event as a service project.
- Dispose of Trash Properly. Discard trash in tightly closed bags.
- Be a Good Example. Share tips with family members, and friends.

EGG CARTON BIRD FEEDER

SUPPLIES PROVIDED:

- Egg Carton
- Bird Seed
- String

KEY QUESTIONS

- How does this activity reduce waste?
- What litter have you seen that can hurt our bird friends?
- What other items can you reuse to make a bird feeder or birdhouse?
- What birds can you find in your backyard?

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES NEEDED :

- Scissors or hole punch
- Glue

Source: <http://thecreativecubby.blogspot.com>

STEP 1

Carefully punch a hole in the four corners of your egg carton.

STEP 2

Thread string through holes diagonally and tie ends into knots over corners. Use a dab of glue for extra security.



STEP 3

Add bird seed, hang in your backyard on a tree or hook, and enjoy the birds!



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