



Be a Birdseed Detective

Science – Grade 1-3

Students set out bowls of different types of birdseed, make predictions, and record observations each day for a week.

Materials:

- 3 or more types of birdseed or nuts such as millet, sunflower seeds, or thistle
- 3 or more shallow bowls (one for each kind of birdseed)
- Measuring cups
- Paper
- Pencil

Instructions:

1. Have students measure out one cup of each type of birdseed and place in shallow bowls, one type of seed per bowl.
2. Go outside and place the bowls in three different places. Try to find spots that are open and easily accessible to birds and are all on the same level.
3. Have students record the set-up of the experiment on paper, and ask them to come up with a hypothesis that describes what they think the outcome of the experiment will be. Which kind of birdseed do they think will be eaten the fastest?
4. Every day for a week, go outside to observe the experiment and record findings. Are the birds eating one kind of seed but not another?
5. After one week, have students record the final results. Which seed was most popular?

**** Lesson Enhancement:** Discuss with students which kinds of birds are local to your area. Research which kind of birds like to eat the kind of birdseed that was most popular in your experiment. What are your findings?