



STEAM ACTIVITIES

Explore how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics all meet Art.

MAKING A BIRD FEEDER



Purpose of the task

(as required by the National Curriculum)

- To educate primary years children on the importance of seasons for animals and plants
- To explore the representation of different seasons in varied works of art
- To undertake a practical art project of building a bird feeder using different recycled materials and foods
- To encourage the identification of garden birds and to make sketches
- To use digital cameras and social media to share their work

Let's talk about Seasons:

1

What are the different seasons?

2

What season are we in now?

3

Which season has the shortest days?

4

Which season has the longest days?

5

How long does each season last?

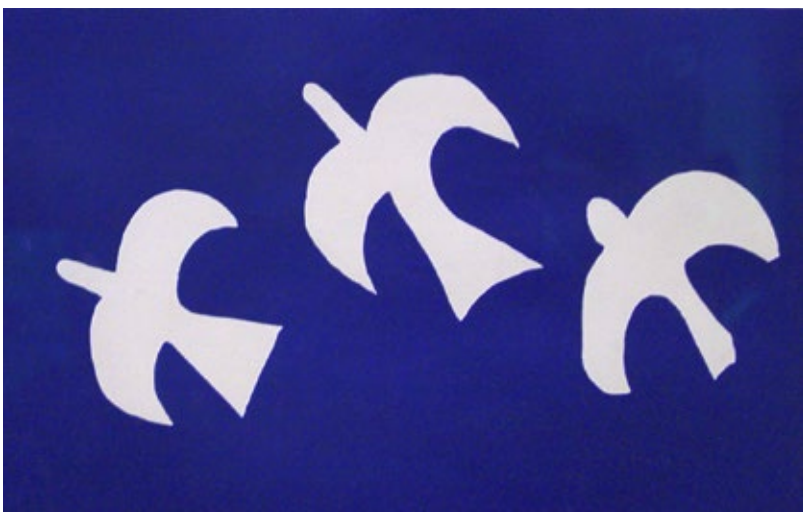
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Have you noticed any changes to the natural world outside?

- Think about the trees, do they have leaves?
- What colours can you see?
- Can you hear birds?
- Have you seen any flowers?

Have a look at these works of art, all of which are from The New Art Gallery Walsall's Garman Ryan Collection:

- Can you describe what you see in these images?
- What season do you think it is and why?



Artworks left to right;

- Eugène Delacroix (1800-63), *New Born Lamb*, chalk on paper
- Sir Jacob Epstein, *Sunflowers*, watercolour, 1943
- Georges Braque - *Birds in Flight*, 1953-55, coloured lithograph
- Unknown, Egyptian blue glazed figure of a Hawk, faience, c712-30 BC
- Theodore Garman, *Villa Solaia*, oil on canvas, 1949

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Be mindful of the environment and try to use recycled materials like discarded cardboard / paper.

It is so important that birds, just like other animals, get enough food – so they have enough energy for flying, breeding, laying eggs, feeding their babies or even trying to protect themselves from birds of prey or other animals that might want to eat them.

- You can make your own bird feeder to help these birds get enough nutrition.

Things you will need:

1. Scissors
2. String
3. Hole punch
4. Peanut butter or corn syrup
5. Paint brush/ old tooth brush
6. 2 toilet roll tubes or 1 kitchen towel tube (alternatively you can roll one from cardboard)
7. Some wood twigs or a branch
8. Bird seed on a plate
9. Bits of apple/ raisins



Method:



1. Cut your toilet roll tubes in half, or kitchen roll tubes in 4 to make 4 identical small tubes



2. Using a hole punch, make a hole in each of the tubes



3. Using your brush, brush on some peanut butter/ corn syrup on the outside of the tubes



4. Put your bird seed on a plate and roll the tubes along the seed



5. Cut some string and tie some raisins/apple pieces around it. If you have Cheerios, you can thread them through the string.



6. Thread the string through the holes and tie the string together



7. Now take your branch and tie the feeders that you have made around the branch



8. Hang your bird feeder in a quiet area away from the squirrels and enjoy bird watching!

Most common birds you may see and how to identify them:



House Sparrow

Grey belly and brown feathers



Starling

Mostly black but white and coloured spots all over



Blue tit

Blue head and wings and yellow body



Blackbird

Black with a yellow beak, female is brown



Wood pigeon

Grey in colour with a white patch on the neck



Robin

Bright red chest

- If you need help identifying the bird, check this out!

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird

Share your work with us:

- If you see any other birds, do take a picture and share it with us!
- We would also love to see pictures of your bird feeders in action!



facebook.com/newartgallerywalsall



twitter.com/newartgallery



instagram.com/thenewartgallerywalsall

Further resources:

Art and design
Key stages 1 and 2
National curriculum

RSPB
Birds and
Wildlife

RSPB
Bird watching

BBC
Bird spotting



Walsall Council



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