

Bird Feeder Challenge

What is the challenge? Design and build a bird feeder for your home.

What you need:

- A variety of recycled materials that may include:
 - 2-liter bottles
 - Cardboard boxes
 - Aluminum cans
 - Egg cartons
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Twine or rope
- Bird seed
- Paper and pencil



What to do:

- Choose recycled materials you would like to build your bird feeder with.
- Sketch out a design using the paper and pencil.
- Time to build! Use your materials to engineer the best bird feeder you can.
- Once built, fill with bird seed and hang outside.
- Watch to see if birds enjoy their new food source.

Notes for adults:

- Adult supervision is advised when using sharp objects and hot glue guns.
- Encourage creativity in your learner! This activity is all about reusing items from around your home and repurposing them for something new.



**EXPLORATION
PLACE**

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTER

STEM connection:

- An ornithologist is a scientist who studies birds. Ornithologists may study the behavior, physiology and conservation of birds and bird habitats. This work often involves surveying, recording and reporting on bird activity. Ornithologists may either generalize or specialize in a particular species or bird group.
- Many professionals may spend part of their time researching birds. They may work as wildlife biologists, ecologists, land managers, teachers, researchers, environmental educators, legislative advocates or eco-tour guides.

- EnvironmentalScience.org

Take it further:

- Once you've observed your feeder for a few days, ask yourself, "What can I do to improve the design?"
 - Are birds using the feeder? If not, add a perch to your feeder for easier access.
 - Are squirrels eating all your bird seed? Engineer a way to prevent the squirrels from stealing all the bird seed.

