

Title: Bird Feeding and Migration Observation

Subject: Science/ Mathematics

Grade Level: 2nd – 7th

Time: 15 minutes per day for the length of the adventure (though can be done in less)

Objective:

Students will better understand the concept of bird migration through building a bird house to observe and record data within a given experiment.

Illinois State Standards and Objectives:

11.A.2b Collect data for investigations using scientific process skills including observing, estimating and measuring.

11.A.3c Collect and record data accurately using consistent measuring and recording techniques and media.

11.A.3d Explain the existence of unexpected results in a data set.

11.A.3e Interpret and represent results of analysis to produce findings.

12.A.2a Describe simple life cycles of plants and animals and the similarities and differences in their offspring.

12.B.3b Compare and assess features of organisms for their adaptive, competitive, and survival potential

12.B.2a Describe relationships among various organisms in their environments. (e.g. predator/prey, parasite/host, food chains, and food webs.

12.B.2b Identify physical features of plants and animals that help them live in different environments.

10.A.2a Organize and display data using pictures, tallies, tables, charts, bar graphs, line graphs, line plots and stem-and-leaf graphs.

10.B.2b Collect, organize and display data using tables, charts, bar graphs and line graphs.

Materials

Pop bottle

Twigs

Bird Seed

Scissors

String

Pie Tin

Method:

Your class will build a bird feeder that can be observed from the classroom at regular intervals. Punch holes on either side of a plastic pop bottle, stick a twig all the way through with its ends sticking out for perches and poking more holes nearby for the birds to pull the seeds out. Then hang the bottle by tying a string around its neck. Put the pie tin around the top of the pop bottle to keep squirrels or other animals out of the bird feeder.

Once the bird feeder has been hung, begin talking with students about migration. Ask students to list birds that live in your area. Research where these birds migrate to and when.

Use the following chart to record your observations, make predictions, and expand on students' previous knowledge of migration.

Lesson Extensions:

Try switching the bird seed to see if it attracts different species of birds.

Have students build a bird feeder that they can observe from home.

Partner with a school found at the end of a bird's migration and find out from their students what the birds' habits are during the time that they are away from your area.

Internet Resources:

National Wildlife Web Site for Bird Migration

<http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/flyright.cfm>

Why Files look at Bird Migration

http://whyfiles.org/006migration/bird_strategy.html

Bird Activities

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/pub/virtualbird/educational.html>

