

Bird feeder intro lesson

Grade Level: K-2

Season: Fall/Winter

Larger IGS Unit: Seeds

Essential Question: Why are seeds important? What can we do with seeds? Who needs seeds to survive?

Objective: Students will be able to identify a variety of seeds used in bird feed, and understand other ways these seeds are used.

Materials:

Bird seed (variety bags)

“Seed identification” worksheet and/or “Seed saving” worksheet

Introduction:

Invite students to share what they know about seeds. (Optional: KWL sheet)
We have started doing some seed saving already this year – but how else can we use seeds?

Are there other living things that depend on seeds like we do?

Are there any seeds that you think birds might like to eat? Make list.

We are now going to do some seed identification (ask students to define *identification*) with bird feed to find out.

Activity:

Each student gets a cup with a variety of seeds.

- 1) Categorize the seeds.
 - a. Together as a class, you can determine which seed is the biggest, which is the smallest, smoothest, darkest, etc.
- 2) Using the seed worksheet, students tape one of each kind of seed to a box. They write down the name of the seed in that box.
 - a. If using “seed saving” worksheet, students choose one of the seeds to answer the questions.
- 3) Then they can draw what they think that plant looks like in the box/on the back of the paper.

Wrap up/ Assessment:

Students share their findings at the end. Worksheets can be evaluated to see what students know about seed identification, and what they think the plant will look like. Great to return to in the spring when these seeds are planted.

~ KWL sheet is a great seed unit assessment.

Extensions:

Do all birds like to eat the same seeds? Explore which birds like which types of bird feed.

Make bird feeders (2nd graders often make bird feeders with their Kindergarten "Science Buddies" as a holiday gift idea)