Learn by Doing

Choice

Feed the Birds

Make a simple bird feeder to attract birds. See how many different kinds of birds come to visit! Choose from two simple designs.

Cereal Circle

String circle-shaped cereal pieces on an 18” (45 cm) length of twine. Tie a knot or cereal piece at one end of the twine and wrap masking tape around the other end for easier threading. When the twine is full, knot the ends together to form a circle. Hang outside on a tree for the birds to enjoy.

Bird Seed Ornaments (Photo Directions on pp. 2-3)

Make a no-bake seed “cake” for the birds to enjoy.

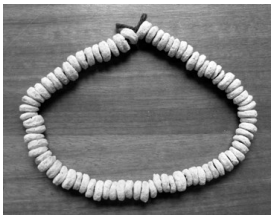
1. Spread wax paper on the table at each child’s place. Cut an extra square of wax paper approx. 6x6” (15x15cm) for each child. Put a cookie cutter, Mason jar lid or several sections of a Styrofoam or plastic egg carton, and a piece of knotted string at each child’s place.
2. Put 1 package (1/4 oz) unflavored gelatin into a mixing bowl. Teacher adds 1/4 cup boiling water and stirs until dissolved.

The ratio of water-gelatin suggested creates a cake that firms fairly fast. Do NOT mix ingredients before your activity time as it will set too fast! Prepare ahead of time by setting up a mixing bowl with dry gelatin powder. Mix in the boiling water and seeds during the activity.

3. Children can add 3 cups bird seed. Stir until the seed is thoroughly coated (the children can stir as it cools).
4. The children can spoon the seed mixture into their molds. When the mold is half full, cover the seeds with wax paper and press firmly. Put the knotted end of the string into the mold. Fill the mold up completely with the seeds and gelatin mixture. Press down firmly again.
5. Set aside and allow to dry in mold. Gently press out of mold when dry. Send home in a bag. Hang on a bush or tree for the birds to enjoy.

Cereal Circle
Materials for Each Child

circle-shaped cereal pieces, 18” (45 cm) piece of twine or string, masking tape



Bird Seed Ornaments
Materials Needed

1/4 oz package unflavored gelatin, 3 cups birdseed, 1/4 cup boiling water, bowl to mix, spoon to stir, 12” (30cm) string, measuring cup, spoons (1 per child), wax paper, bag to take project home, *your choice*: 1 cookie cutter per child (round/heart-shaped) OR 1 Mason jar lid OR several segments of a Styrofoam or plastic egg carton

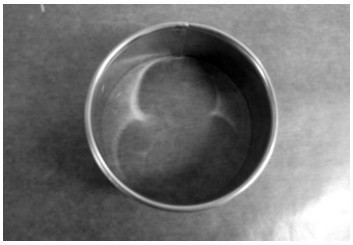
Important Note

This project may take up to half an hour to become firm enough to remove from a cookie cutter mold. Reverse the order of your lesson if this will create a hardship OR use segments of Styrofoam or plastic egg cartons and send the project home in the mold to avoid drying time issues.

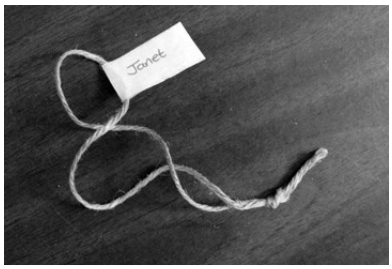
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Bird Seed Ornaments Photo Directions 1

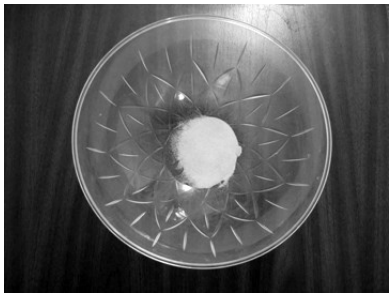
1. Set a place for each child with a cookie cutter (or Mason jar lid or sections of egg carton), 18” length of twine tied at one end, wax paper to cover the table and a smaller square of wax paper to compact the bird seed.



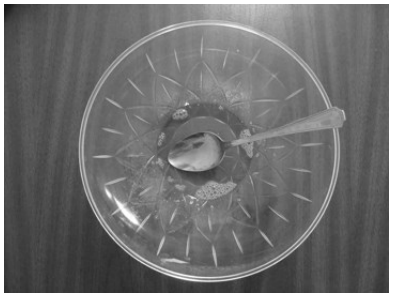
2. Label the string with masking tape if desired.



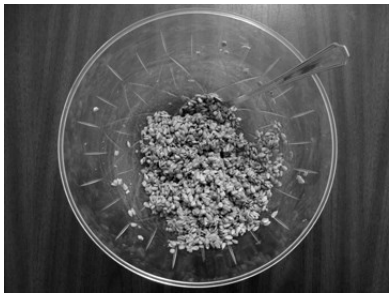
3. Empty a 1/4 oz package of unflavored gelatin into a mixing bowl.



4. Add 1/4 cup boiling water and stir until dissolved.



5. Add 3 cups birdseed and stir until well mixed.



6. Spoon coated bird seed into cookie cutter. Cover with small square of wax paper and press down firmly.



7. When the cookie cutter is about half full...



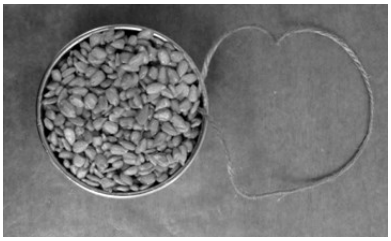
8. ...place string on top of the seeds. Continue to add coated seeds and press down firmly.



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Bird Seed Ornaments Photo Directions 2

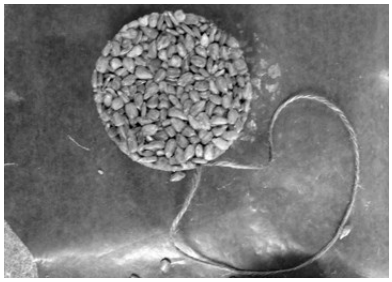
9. When completely full, allow to firm up. This may take 5 -10 minutes. Continue with another lesson activity while you wait.



10. Gently press the seed cake out of the mold.



11. Allow to harden on a sunny windowsill or near a heater.

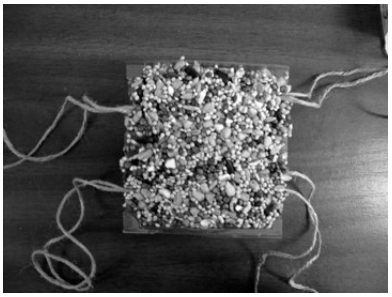


12. Put feeder into a bag to take home. Remind the children to hang the feeder up outside for the birds to enjoy! The birds (and other animals) can also use the string for nesting!

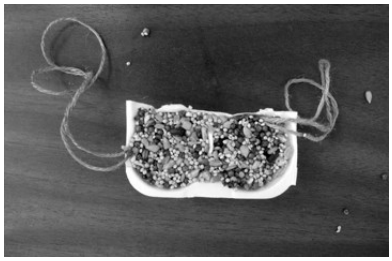
13. Alternatively, use a Styrofoam or plastic egg carton instead of a cookie cutter. Cut into 2-4 piece sections. Fill and press seeds into carton.



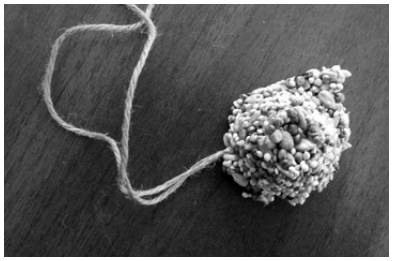
14. Provide a string for each egg carton section the children will be filling. When firm, gently cut or pry sections apart and remove from the mold.



15. Here is a Styrofoam carton with two sections.



16. Put feeder into a bag to take home. Remind the children to hang the feeder up outside for the birds to enjoy! The birds (and other animals) can also use the string for nesting!



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