

Build your own Bug and Bird Homes!

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Lesson Overview

Students will learn all about bugs and birds in their backyard.

- Step 1: Backyard Observations
- Step 2: Why Bugs and Birds!
- Step 3: How to build a bug Hotel
- Step 4: How to build a bird house
- Step 5: What Now?
- Step 6: Share!

Notes for Parents/Teachers

Adult supervision is recommended when students are outside making observations and building their houses.

Age Group: Elementary School

Total Time Needed:

~2 Hours

Materials Needed

- Recycled materials (eg. Milk or juice containers).
- Any craft supplies you have on hand to decorate the house
- Paper and pencil for observations
- Scissors
- String
- Glue, tape, or hot glue

See more from MOSS Adventure Learning at moss.uidaho.edu/adventure

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Step 1: Backyard Observations

For this part you will go outside and explore your backyard, or a local park.

- Be sure to bring paper, pencil, and a hard surface to write on

Look for bird and bugs

- Where do you think they live?
- Have you looked way up high in trees, or down on the ground under rocks?

Once you find a critter, stop and draw it

- Be sure to include objects you found it near in your drawing (like a tree or stick)
- Write down what color it was, or use colored pencils

Step 2: Why bugs and birds!

Watch the links below to learn more about why bugs and Birds are important:

Why bugs are important

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgZ_YdKPMdM

DIY bug hotel with Adventure Science Center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GarS2eM4e7o>

Bird Migration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwIT9pv4khw>

Homemade Birdhouse

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3M67SomfsU



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Step 3: How to Build your own Bug Hotel

1. Find a plastic bottle or jar in your recycling bin.
2. Wash your container with soap and water! (I used a 20oz plastic bottle)
3. Once clean and dry, use scissors to cut off the top part of bottle.
4. Go outside and collect pine needles, leaf-litter: bark, pieces of old wood, twigs, and leaves.
5. Arrange them by type neatly in bottle, and place outside near a tree, bush or garden!



The Process...



Additional Resources:

https://youtu.be/6R0o7i4X_bw

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Step 4: How to build your own Bird House

1. Find a recycled container to become your birdhouse (I used a gallon container, but smaller containers are better if you have one)
2. Clean the container and let it dry
3. Cut a small hole in your container (about a 1.5inch diameter)
4. Decorate it!
(I used a mixture of glue and water to attach colored paper to my container, but paint or other craft supplies would work.)
5. Attach string and hang your bird house on a branch of a tree

Birdhouse Tips

- If the hole is too big, birds won't want to build a nest
- Birds will bring their own twigs and bedding, so leave it empty
- Placing your birdhouse near a bird feeder might help you attract birds
- Add bird seed inside your bird house to attract birds

The Process....



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Step 5: What Now?

Spend the next week monitoring your bird house and checking your bug hotel daily for any new residents!

- Write down critters you notice!
- Draw the critters you see visiting!

Additional resources:

Bird Identification APP -

https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/#_ga=2.228961564.1686088659.1588104758-1097436792.1588104757

More about Birds -

<https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids>

Cool Bug Facts -

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/insects/15-facts-about-bugs/>



Think about....

Have you seen critters near your bug or bird house?

How many different critters?

Can you draw the critters you've seen?

Step 6: Share

Join us on Zoom May 8th at 10 AM MST!

Bring your observations, pictures of your bug house and bird hotel!! We can't wait to see your creations!

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