

## Toilet Paper Tube Bird Feeders

**Objective:** Students will make a bird feeder by reusing a toilet paper tube and will choose an appropriate location to place the feeder.

**Knowledge:** Students will describe paper tubes (and other materials) as a reuseable, recyclable, decomposable product of trees. They will recognize birdfeeders as an important part of human-made habitat for animals.

**Skills:** Students will practice fine and gross motor skills, practice sharing with classmates.

**Value:** Students will describe some of the ways humans can affect their environment through resource use (wise or otherwise) and influencing components of habitat.

Virginia SOL:

### Materials

- 1 toilet paper tube/student
- Plastic or butter knives
- material to make a tube-hanging loop, preferably something recycled or repurposed (strips of plastic bag work well)
- masking tape
- hole puncher
- sharpies for writing names
- Lard
- 1 shallow container with thistle seed and one with mixed birdseed per every 5 students
- Wax paper or a large paper bag to take creations home

### Special Safety

### Procedure

1. Show students the toilet paper tubes. Ask: What are these tubes made of? Where does this tube come from? (Made of cardboard/paper and it is made from trees).
2. Explain: Humans use trees for all sorts of things! Ask them to look around the room and describe or find and list objects around their room that come from trees. You can generate a list of these items on the board.
3. Instruct students that they will REUSE the tubes to make feeders for bird for important winter food.
4. Give a TP tube, a piece of yarn or string, and a tape label to each student. Instruct them write their names on the tape with sharpie.
5. Next, coat the outside of the tube with lard.
6. Then, roll the tube in a shallow dish of bird seed. Tiny seeds attract small birds like finches. Larger seeds attract larger birds like cardinals.
7. These feeders can be hung from branches outside to attract hungry birds.
8. Ask students to consider where they should place their feeders. What are some hazards to birds? How can they place their feeder so that the birds are not in danger?

### Resources

1. Refer to these sites for help determine where to put feeders. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citsci/take-action/2014/11/dos-and-donts-of-feeder-placement/>
2. Other resources-
  - <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citsci/interactive/2014/08/eat-like-a-frugivorous-bird/>

**Possible Extensions: (optional)**

