WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

WINDOW BIRDHOUSE

Ages 5–12

MAKE. CREATE. EXPLORE.

#KidsWorkshopExplore

THE HOME DEPOT KIDS WORKSHOPS

Discovery EDUCATION

When birds are choosing a spot for their home, what factors might help them make their decision?

Think about it: What do animals need to survive?

_____

If you said food, water and shelter then you're on the right track! During this activity, you are going to focus on the shelter that animals – specifically birds – need to survive.

Bird Brainstorm

The birds in your area are lucky because they are about to get new homes! But before they do, it's your job to test where birds would most like to live! When humans choose a home, they may think about price, the neighborhood, and what's nearby. When birds are choosing a spot for their home, what factors might help them make their decision?

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

If birds had a dream home, where would it be?

To select the perfect birdhouse location, let's test what birds are really looking for!

Using your brainstorming from above as a guide, choose three **different** windows in your home where you could place your birdhouses. Make sure you select locations that are safe to reach and see.

Location 1: _____

This location is different from the other two birdhouse locations because:

_____

_____

_____

Location 2: _____

This location is different from the other two birdhouse locations because:

_____

_____

_____

Location 3: _____

This location is different from the other two birdhouse locations because:

_____

_____

_____

Hypothesize:

Which location do you think birds will use the most? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Location Testing

You'll need...
- Three window birdhouses (or, at the very least, one!)
- A pencil
- A pocket notebook
- Binoculars (optional but they'll help you observe the birds from a distance)

1. With the help of an adult, carefully place your birdhouses in the three window locations that you chose. (Tip: If you only have one birdhouse, place it in one location first, test it for a week, and then move it to the next location.)

2. Over the next seven days, use the chart on Page 3 to keep track of what you see at your birdhouses every morning and every afternoon or evening. Be sure to also use your pocket notebook to record observations, such as if the home was in the sun or the shade, if you saw animals around the birdhouse, if there were birds nearby, etc.

And First Place Goes To...

Now let's see which birdhouse was the most popular! When the week is up, add up the yes's that you circled on the Bird Dream Home Tracker. Then record your totals below:

At Birdhouse **Location #1**, I saw a bird using the birdhouse _____ times.

At Birdhouse **Location #2**, I saw a bird using the birdhouse _____ times.

At Birdhouse **Location #3**, I saw a bird using the birdhouse _____ times.

Was your hypothesis correct? Why or why not? (Note: If none of your locations were successful, don't worry! An important part of experimenting is being willing to try again. Give three new locations a try and see how they do!)

_____

_____

_____

Why do you think birds liked this location the most? As you answer, use the notes you took in your pocket notebook and compare this location to the other two spots.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Create a bird community: Now that you are an expert in birdhouse locations, the birds around your home can benefit from the research you just performed!

Move the other two birdhouses close to your #1 spot and create a neighborhood that many birds can enjoy together. Or, if you'd like to continue experimenting, use your other homes to try out two new locations and see if you can find one that is even better than the first!

Bird Dream Home Tracker

Directions: Circle your daily observations below and record more detailed observations in your pocket notebook. These observations will help you understand why birds seemed to like or dislike each location!

	Location #1 _____		**Location #2** _____		**Location #3** _____	
	Did you see a bird using the birdhouse?		Did you see a bird using the birdhouse?		Did you see a bird using the birdhouse?	
Day 1 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No
Day 2 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No
Day 3 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No
Day 4 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No
Day 5 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No
Day 6 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No
Day 7 Morning Afternoon	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	No No