

The return of migratory birds

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Overall aims:

- Practicing the ability to mentalize with animals
- Knowing what animals usually "re-born" during Spring;
- Become more patient;
- Interiorize and become more able to recycle;
- Develop the ability to observe;
- Make and test hypotheses;
- Develop the value of patience;
- Develop the ability to reuse;
- Develop the ability to build something with recycled materials

2

Vocabulary - keywords

Birds, Recycling, Experiment.

3

Sustainable abilities developed

Systematic thinking
 Anticipatory competency
 Strategic competency
 Critical thinking competency
 Collaboration competency
 Integrated problem solving

4

Pillars of sustainability included

Environmental sustainability
 Economic sustainability

5

STEAM domains

Science, Art



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6 Teaching methodologies/activity outline

The activity consists in building a small house for birds, providing them some food, and meeting them in a way that might be sustainable for birds (e.g., birds usually fly away when people come near).

Before the experiment:

Task for pupils: ask pupils to take milk or juice cartons that they had already used within the family – explain to children that it would be important not to buy new milk or juice cartons, but take to school used cartons that otherwise will be thrown away. Task for teachers: this activity needs the following materials: scissors, non-toxic tempera, cotton thread, wooden sticks, and glue.

The experiment:

Pupils, together with the teacher's help, cut out a small part of the cardboard so that it forms a tiny window. The cardboards will then be colored with non-toxic tempera. After the cardboards have dried, the children, together with the teacher's help, will cut out a small hole in the top so that children can insert the cotton thread. They will then need to cut out a small hole under the window so that a stick can be inserted so that the birds can perch. Finally, the children will pour some birdseed inside the box, and the children will then hang the birdhouse on a tree. Once back in the classroom, ask the children what birds they expect to see and use this discussion to begin a lesson on the species that are likely to be seen in the Spring.

After the experiment:

Ask pupils to be patient. Every day for a week, the children will go out into the garden to see if any birds have landed and, if so, add the feed.

7 Expected learning outcomes

The child will be able to

- Know the characteristics of birds;
- Get in tune with nature and its inhabitants;
- Recycle;
- Reuse;
- Care for animals;
- Develop the value of patience.



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8	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial evaluation: assessing what pupils already know about the general concepts (e.g., migratory processes); • Middle evaluation: assessing what pupils are learning during the experiment; • Final evaluation: assess, through systematic observation, whether pupils reached the goals.
9	Equipment and materials to be used in learning unit (tools, ingredients etc) Recycled milk or juice cartons, scissors, non-toxic tempera, cotton thread, wooden sticks, and glue.
10	Kind of setting - lab, kitchen, outdoor etc. Indoor (classroom) and outdoor (garden)
11	References - source: Litton, J. & Margan, P. (2020). Il mio pianeta: ecologia [What on earth? The environment]. Giunti Editore.

