

LESSON PLAN

Disclaimer:

I teach STEM in a K-8 Charter School. As such, I get students for an average of 40 minutes a week. Because of this, this project took significantly longer than if I had more time with the students. We completed this project in phases, as pictured below.

Phase One: Research

Every grade learned about birds and bird behavior. In K-3, they learned about bird song, and bird behavior. Most of the grades played a game where you try to identify a bird from their song. The website is down below. Kindergarten watched a video that talks about what to do when a bird is hurt. 4-5th researched nest predators, and 6-8th researched native bird species.

Phase Two: Planning

Grades K-5 continued their research. They used a variety of activities and planned out what they could do to attract birds to the box and help protect from predators. Grades 6-8 selected the targeted bird species, and drafted blueprints for the boxes.

Phase Three: Implementation

K-2 made bird feeders and water stations. They placed them in trees and gardens. 3rd grade created holders for nest materials and placed them outside. This mainly included paper and twigs.

Grades 4-5 created posters to educate other students about nest predators. They also included blueprints for protection against predators. 6-8th constructed the boxes. This was difficult for them, and some boxes had to have adjustments made. They also installed the cameras in the boxes. Because of the school network, the boxes are currently at my house. So I installed them.

Resources and Tips

- This is the link to bird song hero. Almost every grade did this, and they all loved it.
<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/features/bird-song-hero/bird-song-hero-tutorial>
- <https://nestwatch.org/> This is where the students got the majority of their information.
- Next time I do any sort of construction project, I would be the one to assemble them. Although it did work, there were a lot of big mistakes that had to be redone. I would assemble the boxes, but have the students sand them, fill them with wood filler and paint them. It would've been a little bit more of an enjoyable process.
- The students loved feeling like their input mattered. Next time, I would give each grade a very specific aspect to be in charge of, like how 4th and 5th grade were in charge of predator proofing.