

Turn Into a Bird Brain! Activities for Pupils about Irish Birds

Background Info and Fun Facts

- Birds are so important, not only as a species on the planet, but also for us, as humans. They pollinate crops, eat pests and wake us in the morning with their dawn chorus!
- Hundreds of birds call habitats in Ireland their home. Some are resident while others migrate here in the spring or autumn.
- School is a great place to observe birds and see their life cycle. Birds will need three things to come to your school – food, water and shelter, so tempt them by providing all three.
- These are some simple things you can do with your class for pupils to learn more about our feathered friends.



Curriculum Links

Subject	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living things, environmental awareness and care	Animal life, caring for the environment

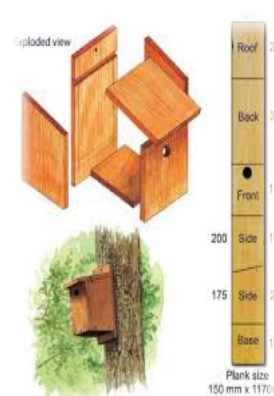
1. Set Up a Birdfeeder and Observe Birds (Junior and Senior)

- Place birdfeeders in a suitable place outside the classroom window and fill them with peanuts.
- Put A4 pictures of common Irish garden birds up on the classroom window and observe if any call to your birdfeeder. Check out www.birdwatchireland.ie to complete the garden bird survey.



2. Make Nest Boxes For Garden Birds (Senior)

- Find an adult who will cut some pieces of plywood 150mm X 1170mm.
- Download the cutting plan for the bird boxes on [www.birdwatchireland.ie/ + Kids' Zone + Project 4 Nesting Boxes](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/+Kids%27+Zone+Project+4+Nesting+Boxes)
- At the back of class, get pupils to measure the plan on the wood and mark out all the lines to be cut.
- Send the wood home with pupils who can get adults to help them cut and assemble the boxes and bring back to school.
- Classes can hang them on an east, north-east or south-east facing wall and away from cats. Birds such as Blue Tits, Great Tits and House Sparrows are most likely to use them!



Web Links

- www.birdwatchireland.ie to find Ireland's top 20 garden birds and take part in the winter garden bird survey
- You can also hear the call of garden birds on www.rspb.org.uk
- Check out [Youtube + Which nest box should I choose? + #AskBillOddie](#) to watch a video of simple questions on bird boxes answered.