**WONDERFULLY WILD UNIT**

**LESSON 3: Grades K-3**

**THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS!**

**Curriculum Connections, Standards addressed:**

**Academic Goals:** 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7

**Knowledge Goals:** Communication Arts: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; Science: 3, 4; Social Studies: 6

**Objective:** To gain appreciation for wild birds that grace our backyards. To learn about the responsibilities involved in feeding wild birds.

**Common Core-Aligned Activities:**

**SL.K.2.1—Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.**

Encourage students to discuss the differences between ‘wild’ and ‘domestic.’ What are the differences? Similarities? What makes a wild bird wild? What makes a wild animal different than a pet? What are the different needs? What do they eat? If we start to feed them, will they become dependent on us? Is it fair to start feeding them and then lose interest and stop? Why?

**Character Concepts:** Fairness, Respect, Responsibility

**Fairness:** Treat all animals as you would want to be treated. Give equal consideration to the needs of all living creatures, not just our own needs.

**Respect:** Treat all living creatures the way you would like to be treated—with courtesy and consideration of their feelings and needs.

**Responsibility:** Following the golden rule of treating other living beings as you would want to be treated.

**STEM initiatives:** **Thinking critically in the connections to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**

**2-PS1-3—**Analyze the materials needed to assemble a bird feeder per our methodology. Make observations about how this object is made of a small set of pieces and refigured to make a new object. How does it work?

**1-ESS1-2—**Students will be able to collect the data that is necessary to determine what differentiates a wild from a domestic bird and what special needs each have. What are the similarities and what are the differences in wild and domestic birds. How does our actions affect their lives.

Materials Needed:

* Clean, dry, empty plastic soda or water bottle with cap (2 liter or any size)
* An ice pick or sharp object (for adult use only!)
* Twigs or small sticks that are 2-3 inches wider than the bottle
* Birdseed
* Paperclip
* DOWNLOAD Handout: “Don’t Hurt A Bird…”

Method: Wild birds are wild and should always remain in the wild. However, with some responsible actions, we can help the birds and bring them in “close and personal” for a better look.

Birds can be a wonderful learning tool for your students, teaching them mysteries of survival, tenacity, responsibility, and as a source of beauty and entertainment.

Although birds benefit from the easy access to birdseed, people are primary beneficiaries of this recreational activity. The opportunity to share food and enjoy the mystique of birds at close range provides hours of enjoyment just outside your home. Bird feeding adds diversity to your day and enriches your life.

Here’s how to make the bird feeder:

1. Heat tip of ice pick and push a hole through cap of water bottle
2. Straighten paper clip and feed through hole; bend paper clip inside of cap to secure; bend outer portion of clip in shape of hook (to hang on a branch)
3. Screw lid back on bottle
4. Push ice pick through (evenly on both sides of bottle)
5. Push twigs through holes, allowing a small portion of twig to stick out on both sides, serving as a perch
6. Use ice pick to make a slightly larger hole approximately one inch above twig through which the birds feed
7. Fill with seed and hang

Call to Action: Have students explore organizations in your community that help wild birds. Is there a wildlife bird sanctuary or an Audubon Society in your community? If so, what work do they do to help wild birds?

Is the habitat in your community being destroyed? What about pollution levels? Have students write letters to community leaders and the editor of your newspaper encouraging builders to save a place for wildlife when designing new developments.

Make bird feeders to sell at PTA or school functions. Include the directions for proper feeding and commitment to feed until natural food sources are abundant. The money raised could be used to purchase trees for planting on school property or in a nearby park. Or the money could be donated to an organization that helps wild birds.

Reading: Visit our section entitled *Recommended Children’s Literature* for a comprehensive listing of animal-related books.

Web sites: Visit our section entitled *Recommended Web Links* for animal-related web sites.