



4-H Learn from Home Activity: DIY Birdfeeders: Orange

Materials Needed:

- Orange
- Scissors
- Yarn/Twine*
- Needle: we used a knitting needle. They are plastic and generally bigger since they are used with yarn. Also, they are safer than a sewing needle!
- Pointed Object: we used an awl, but a toothpick would work just as well (and would be safer for younger audiences).
- A knife
- A spoon

Instructions:

Provide each child with an orange. If children are old enough to safely use a knife, have them cut their orange in half. Otherwise, cut it for them. Have them then scoop out the orange insides – they can eat this for a snack!

Take your pointed object and carefully poke holes in each side about a $\frac{1}{4}$ " – $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge.

Measure out two strings of yarn/twine. Make sure they are the same length! The length is up to you and depends on where you want to hang your bird feeder. 24" is standard.

Thread one length of yarn through a hole. Continue to thread it through the hole opposite the one you just threaded. Pull the yarn so it is even on both sides. Repeat with the second piece of yarn and remaining holes.

Make sure the yarn is even on all four sides. Tie the yarn ends in a knot.

Fill the orange with bird seed, hang outside and watch!

Reflective Questions: (Use these examples, or come up with others)

- What was your favorite part of this activity?
- What was most challenging?
- Could you use other objects to make bird feeders?

Extensions of this Activity:

- Watch and record the bird activity at this feeder.
- Make a science experiment out of it: If you change the type of seed, will different birds show up? What about if you hang it in different locations (close to the house, in the woods, etc.)?
- Citizen Science: upload what birds visited your feeder on ebird.org and help ornithologists track bird behavior!

***Please note:** Be aware that long strands of yarn and string can cause potential dangers to a bird. Yarn in a nest can get caught around a baby bird and cut off circulation as it grows. Check your DIY birdfeeder frequently to make sure it is still intact. If no longer filling it with bird seed on a regular basis, take your bird feeder down. For more information about nesting materials for birds, visit www.audubon.org/news/what-nesting-materials-are-safe-birds.