



Name: _____

1. **Word Meanings:** Match these words from the story to their meanings.
Write the letter beside the word in front of the correct meaning.

Word	#	Meaning
a) croutons		to lace, tie or put together
b) mesh		a net made of laced threads or wires
c) photograph		a kind of fat from cattle and sheep
d) source		small cubes of crisply toasted bread
e) suet		where something begins or comes from
f) weave		to take a picture of something

2. Birds are creatures that can find their own food most of the time. Why do you think some people like to provide food for birds?

3. What are some situations where it would be very difficult for birds to find their own food? Try to think of at least three answers.

4. What dangers might birds face in their search for food? Try to think of at least three answers.



Feeding Our Feathered Friends

Many birds live year round in some of the colder countries like Canada. During the long, cold winter, they have to work very hard to find enough food. They spend almost the entire day searching for seeds, dried berries and anything else that they can eat. We can help out these winter birds by setting up feeders in our yards.

5. What are some foods that humans like to feed to birds? Try to think of as many answers as you can.

Making a simple feeder can be easy to do. Here are some ideas for you to try.

Pine Cone Feeder

- Collect some big pine cones.
- Tie a piece of string about 12 inches (30 cm) around the biggest end. Weave it around the cone pieces so you can hang the cone.
- Spread peanut butter around the top of the cone (evenly over the top of the string)
- Sprinkle some bird seed on the peanut butter. Press the seeds in with your fingers.
- Hang the cones from a branch or hooks where the birds will find them.



Mesh Bag Feeder

- Find a mesh plastic bag. They are used to package onions and some fruits.
- Fill the bag with suet. Suet is a kind of fat that you can get from your butcher.
- Tie off the end and then tie a string around that end so you can hang up the feeder.
- You can try other foods in the mesh bag feeder: stale cookies, doughnuts and bread, fruit, dried cereals.
- Hang your feeder where the bird will visit and eat.





Milk Carton Feeder

- Make a hole through the top part of the carton that stands up. Put a piece of string through the hole and tie it tightly.
- Near the bottom of the carton, cut out an opening. Ask an adult to help you. Make the opening large enough for the bird to feed there.
- Put in some birdseed, dried cereal or croutons.
- Hang your feeder where the birds will see it and feed there.



As soon as the birds discover your feeders, they will be regular visitors! However, there are some points you need to keep in mind when placing your feeders.

Points to Remember	Why This Point is Important
1. Keep the feeders filled with food.	
2. Be sure to place your feeders where they are out of the reach of cats and squirrels.	
3. Check your feeders to see if they need repairs.	

You will be rewarded by watching different species feed each day. Maybe if you are careful and quiet, you will be able to photograph these feathered friends!



Design Your Own Bird Feeder

Think about:

- The kind and size of bird you want to attract
- The materials you will use
- Where you will place the feeder (trees, fence post, hanging from a hook)

Complete the chart below.

- List the materials you will use.
- Illustrate and label the feeder. In your picture show where the feeder will be placed

Materials I Used for My Feeder	Illustration of My Feeder

Thinking Beyond the Facts

Try to find out more about building bird feeders.
Use magazines, non-fiction library books, and the internet to help you.
Here are some websites to help you get started:

www.feedersandhouses.com

www.a-home-for-wild-birds.com/build-a-bird.html

Answer Key

Feeding Our Feathered Friends

Before Reading:

1. f), b), e), a), d), c)
2. They are kind to creatures; they like to watch birds; they know it is hard to find food in winter.
3. a) harsh winters b) shortage of food because of poor growing season c) too many birds looking for food in one area.
4. a) animals (predators) b) other, bigger birds c) humans

During Reading:

5. birdseed, apples, cookies, doughnuts, bread, lettuce, fruits, carrots
6. a) Birds come to depend on the food in the feeder.
b) Cats and squirrels hunt birds. c) Birds might be injured or trapped in a broken feeder.

After Reading:

Design a birdfeeder: Answers and illustrations will vary.

