

# Science At Home:

## January



### January 26-28<sup>th</sup> Big Garden Bird Watch

Every year the RSPB ask people up and down the country to help them to monitor the types and numbers of birds in our gardens by taking part in a national survey. It's free, it only takes an hour and you can up-load your data to add to the information provided by thousands of families across the country. You can also find data from previous years.

With a little help, children are very good at spotting and identifying different kinds of birds.



You could design and make your own simple recording sheet at the start of January and keep a weekly check on the birds which visit your garden.

You could encourage your child to photograph or draw favourite birds.



January is a tough time for many of the birds in our gardens.

Keep a weather-watching diary/calendar and make a note of our January temperatures.

Encourage your children to think scientifically by asking questions and discussing ways to answer them.

What do different birds like to eat?

Do big birds eat more?

Do birds with sharp beaks eat worms?

Do any birds hibernate?

What time of day do most birds come?

Is bread good for birds?

Do birds still come even when it's raining?

Do birds come in the dark?

Do birds come on their own?



You could talk about how you could help to look after the birds in your garden over the winter....

Keep a "birdbath" full of water



Make a bird-feeder...



There are lots more ideas here....remember to keep your feeders clean to avoid birds becoming ill AND you could try to squirrel-proof your bird feeder!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/bird-feeder>




<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-recycled-bird-feeder/>

After you have closely observed the birds in your garden, discuss their features and then you may want to try to make models out of modelling clay, salt dough or even tin foil! Every member of your family could try to model a different bird.

**AGE 5-7** MODELLING BIRDS AND MAMMALS

Challenge children to use one piece of foil to create a bird. Encourage the children to think about the main features of their bird and how they move, and to discuss this with each other.

Next, ask them to choose a mammal to make with their second piece of foil. Before they start, give them time to think and discuss the features of their mammal. Ask them to think about if it is a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore, and how it is similar or different to their bird. Create a class aviary or zoo for children to view and identify each other's creations. Extend the activity to include other types of animal.



**Resources per child**

- Two 30cm x 20cm pieces of foil

**Science explored**

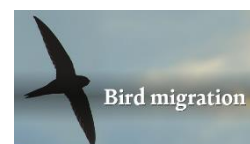
- Features of animals
- Identifying and classifying living things

**Interesting links**

- [BBC Bitesize: all about animals](#)
- [Play a sorting game: feed the animals](#)

Older children may want to take this further and research migration roots of our winter-visiting birds or our summer visitors.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/natures-home-magazine/birds-and-wildlife-articles/migration/>



If you do manage to get out and about there are lots of local ponds, rivers and reservoirs as well as bird-watching sites you could take your family to.

