



# Birds Nests & Feeders // Activity Pack

Welcome to this Activity Pack. Birds, Nests and Feeders is now the second of a series of packs designed by our wonderful Artist Associates for families to make art together over the summer.

Under normal circumstances we would run our popular summer workshops at Dilston Gallery, open to local families with pre-schoolers and primary-aged children.

Instead we bring to you a series of activity packs with achievable tasks that any family member can do from home, regardless of their age (please note younger children may need help from adults).

Each pack contains a set of simple instructions with suggested easy-to-source often recycled materials to use and an estimated time for the activity.

In this pack developed by artist Lily Hawkes, you will discover and make artworks inspired by some of the beautiful bird species that live in Southwark Park and celebrate our amazing natural world.

You may like to go on a walk in the park and try to spot some of these bird species in real life. You can also visit the RSPB website to discover their birdsongs.

**For ages: 2 - 11** (the younger you are, the more your adult will need to work with you).

# 1 // Make A Bird

## Suggested Materials:

Materials: Paper, pencils, paint.  
To be even more friendly to the birds, use recycled paper where possible.

Estimated time of activity: 30 mins



## Instructions:

Draw or paint a bird onto paper or card. You can choose one of the bird images on the next page as inspiration.

Think about how you can illustrate the pattern and texture on your chosen bird's body. What kind of marks can you make with pencil or paint to depict the feathers, smooth beak or scaly feet?

Carefully cut out your drawing or painting; you may decide to glue it to another piece of paper and cut it out again to make a small stand for your bird and to make it a little stronger.

Your bird is now ready to nest!

## Birds of Southwark Park //

Ring Necked Parakeet



Great Spotted Woodpecker



House Sparrow



## Artists' Bird Drawings & Prints //



Andy Warhol  
'Peacock (i), Peacock (ii)'



William Kentridge  
'Eurasian Tree Sparrow'



John James Audubon  
'Forked-tailed Flycatcher'



Picasso  
'Peace Dove' 1961



Henri Matisse  
'Les Oiseaux'

# 2 // Build A Nest

## Suggested Materials:

Recycled brown cardboard, sticks or twigs, scissors, string or glue, paper, pencil or paint

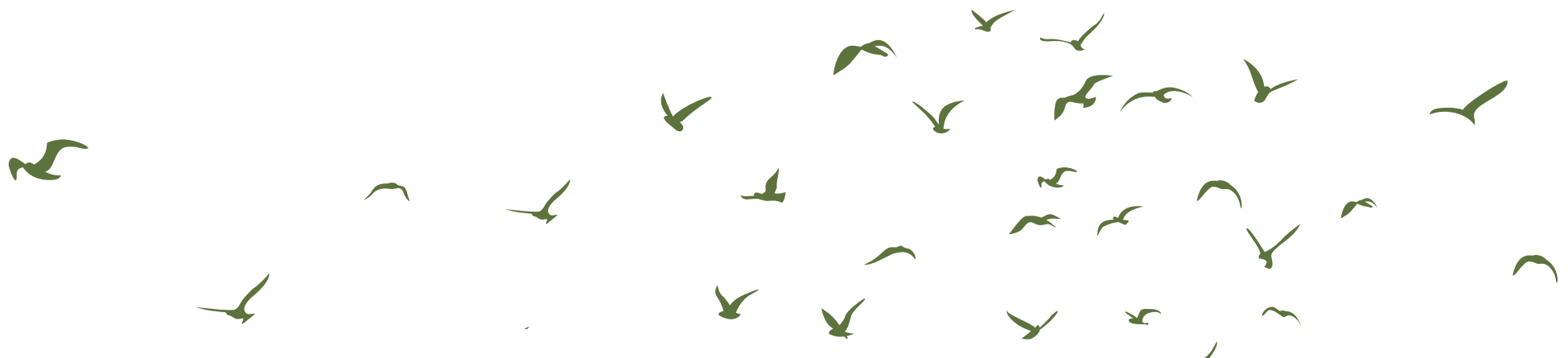
## Estimated time of activity:

1 hour



## Instructions:

Have a look at the photographs of nests above. Birds can build their nests from a variety of materials including sticks, leaves, grass, mud, feathers and moss. First go outside and collect the materials to build your nest! Try and collect a variety of shapes and sizes of sticks.



Cut a cardboard circle and carefully pierce holes around the edge with a pencil. With string or thread, tie on some of your larger sticks around the edge of your cardboard circle using the holes you have made. You could also use glue or just balance your sticks on top of each other.

Build the base of your nest up by repeating this process two or three times. Now that you have the main structure of your nest you can use smaller sticks, grass, feathers or any of the other materials you collected to weave in between these layers.

*You are the architect of your nest so have fun with the shape and materials you use!*



Finally place your bird into your nest. You may like to make some bird eggs. You can do this by scrunching up pieces of paper and molding them into an egg shape. Can you find out what the eggs of your chosen bird look like? You can add this chosen pattern and colour to the eggs.

*Your nest is now ready!*



# 3 // Design A Bird Feeder



## **Suggested Materials:**

Container or used plastic bottle or juice/milk carton, string, sticks, paint or twigs, leaves & natural materials


**Estimated time of activity:** 1 hour

## **Instructions:**



Depending on the materials you use to make your bird feeder, you may decide to bring it inside at night or during rainy days to protect it. Your bird feeder will not only support your local birds but may give you the chance to observe some of them up close.

Below are two ideas for constructing and decorating your bird feeder. You can use these as a guide or design your own, using materials that you either have at home or can collect outside.



## Idea 1 //

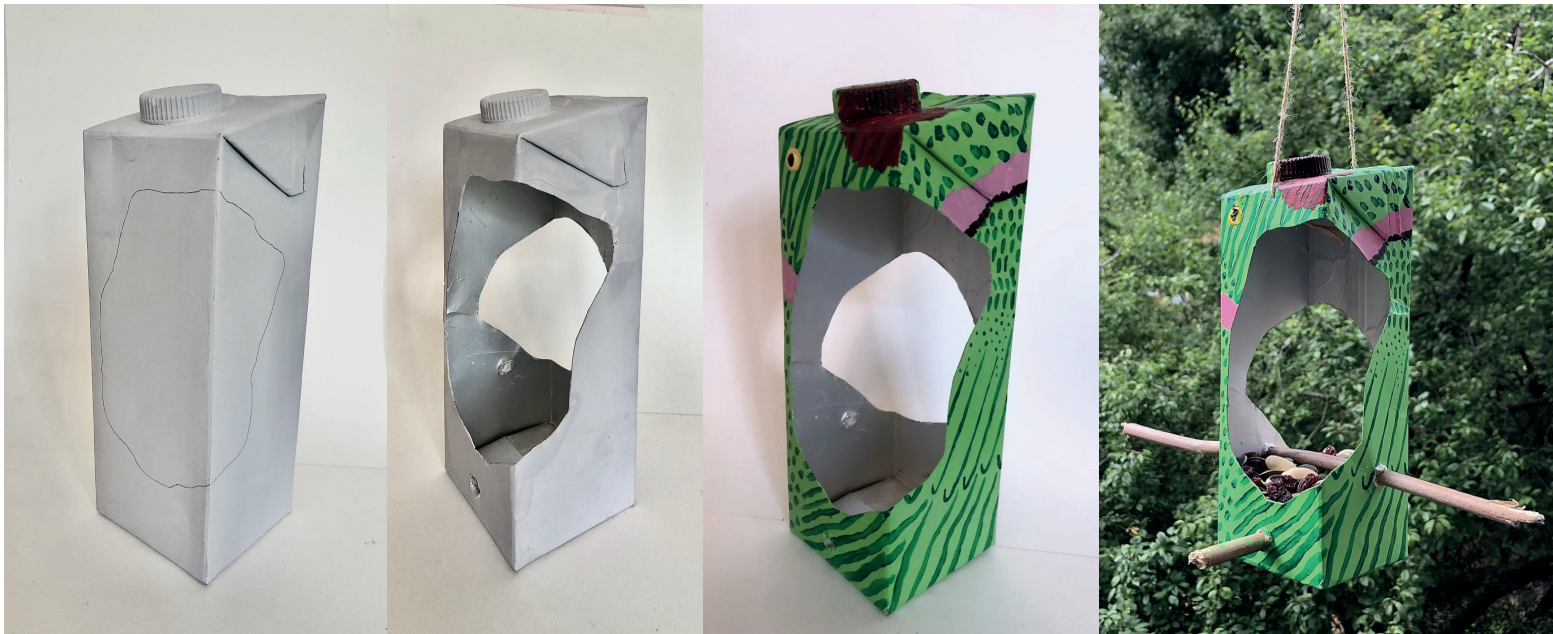
Select a container to use as the structure for your feeder. This could be a milk or juice carton, or a plastic bottle.

Draw and then cut out shapes on at least two of the sides of the container. Ask an adult to help you with this! Use a pen or pencil to make holes on opposite sides of the container near the bottom.

Next, paint your container. You could be inspired by the colours and patterns of one or more of the birds from Southwark Park.

Using a pencil or pen, now pierce two small holes at the top of two opposite sides of the container. Thread string through these holes to hang your feeder. Collect one or two long straight sticks. Push these sticks through the holes that you made earlier near the bottom of the carton. This is where the birds can perch while they eat or drink.

Fill the base with either water or bird food (see the list of suggested foods at the end of this pack).



## Idea 2 //

Select a container to use as the structure of your feeder. This could be a milk or juice carton, or a plastic bottle.

Draw and then cut out shapes on at least two of the sides of the container. Ask an adult to help you with this! Use a pen or pencil to make holes on opposite sides of the container near the bottom.

Using a pencil or pen now pierce two small holes at the top of two opposite sides of the container. Thread string through these holes to hang your feeder. Collect one or two long straight sticks. Push the sticks through the holes that you made earlier near the bottom of the carton. This is where the birds can perch while they eat or drink.

Attach the natural materials that you have collected to the container, using glue or string.

Fill the base with either water or bird food (see the list of suggested foods at the end of this pack).







## Feed the birds...

Not tuppence a bag, but with oats, millet, raw unsalted peanuts, sunflower seeds, fresh fruit, raisins or sultanas.

Make sure to keep your feeder off the ground so that the bird food does not attract rats and mice! More information about UK birds, their nests and how to feed them can be found on the RSPB's website.

We can support bird life all year round by providing a source of food and water using bird feeders. These can help birds to feed their young and access essential food and water during the dry summer months and the cold winter.

This activity pack is brought to you by  
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We look forward to seeing you again soon!



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