

Build a Bird Feeder

What will I need?

- An empty plastic bottle
- Scissors
- A wooden spoon, pencils or wooden dowel
- String or wire
- Bird seed
- Pipe Cleaners (optional)
- Ribbon (optional)
- Glue (optional)

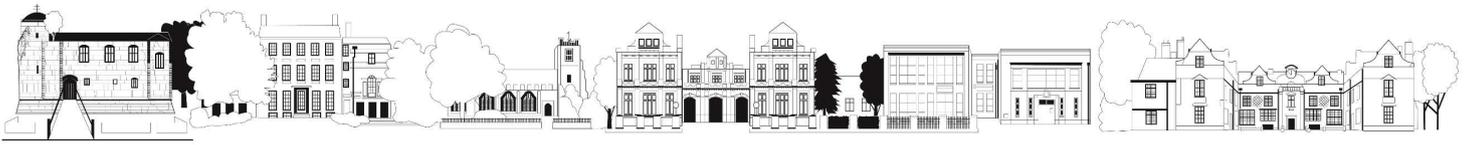
Top Tip!

The size of the feeding holes in step 4 will depend on the kind of seed you are using, so double check that first.

What do I do?

1. Find an empty bottle and give it a good wash.
2. Once your bottle is dry, use some scissors to make a hole that is slightly smaller than the wooden spoon handle, pencil or dowel you are using (children will need a bit of adult help here). Do this on the opposite side as well. If using a wooden spoon, make one hole into a semi-circle, so that the grain can gradually fall into it.
3. Push your spoon, pencil or dowel through the two holes so that it sticks out on both sides - this will be where birds perch!
4. Cut some more holes around 4cm above each of the perches - these will be where the birds can feed from! Make sure they are big enough for small beaks to fit through, but not so large that seeds will fall out everywhere. Don't worry about them being perfectly round, the birds won't mind!





5. Add a few tiny holes at the bottom of the bottle to let water drain out.

6. Make two very small holes, opposite sides of each other, near the neck of the bottle. Then pass some string or wire through the holes and tie the two ends together to form a loop – this will be how you hang your feeder.



7. Your bird feeder is finished! Simply pour some seeds in through the top of the bottle and hang it in your garden or from your balcony! Why not keep a note of some of the birds you see?

If you want to add a few more details to make it slightly prettier...

8. You could wrap pipe cleaners, string or ribbon around the feeder. Why not wind them around the perches to look like vines! Or you could put some stickers on the bottle... whatever you fancy.

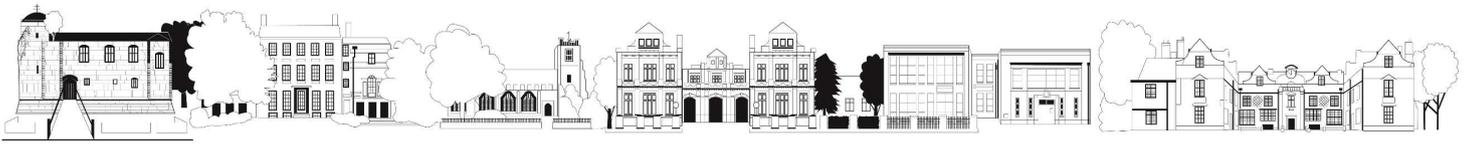


9. If you want to make some flowers using pipe cleaners, firstly bend the pipe cleaner back and forth on itself to make a zig-zagged row.



10. Next wrap the new zig-zag shape around some string or another pipe cleaner you already have on your bottle.





11. Hook the two ends of the pipe cleaner together so the whole thing resembles a flower shape (remember to place your flowers so that they don't cover the bird feeder holes!).



12. Cut a small piece of a different coloured pipe cleaner and use a little glue to attach it to the centre of your flower.



13. Be sure to share your finished feeder with us by posting a picture on social media, tagging Colchester or Ipswich Museums.

