

Pine cone bird feeder

What you need:

- Pine cone
- Lard or peanut butter
- Bird seed
- Twine or string

Have a go at colouring this spring colouring sheet on page 3...What different woodland foods can you spot as you colour?



Step 1

Tie the string around the cone to create a loop to hang it up in the garden.



Step 2

Carefully push some lard or peanut butter into the gaps of the cone. You could push raisins into any gaps you have.



Step 3

Now roll the cone in seeds – sunflower, pumpkin, linseed or bird seed.



Step 4

Hang the cone in your garden and watch the birds feast on the tasty treat you made them!



Taste facts



Animals have evolved to use their sense of taste to help them decide what is safe to eat. A bad taste could mean something is poisonous, a good taste can indicate nutritious food. Trees use taste too...read these facts to find out how!



A recent study shows that trees know the taste of deer saliva. "When a deer is biting a branch, the tree releases chemicals to make the leaves taste bad, ... when a human breaks the branch, the tree knows the difference, and brings in substances to heal the wound."

Trees have a sense of taste. When elms and pines come under attack by leaf-eating caterpillars they detect saliva, and release pheromones that attract a predator such as parasitic wasps.



Crickets have taste receptors in their ovipositor (tube that lays eggs). They taste the dirt to make sure it is good for eggs to hatch in.



Some female butterflies tap plant leaves to release juices that they taste using sensors on their legs. They do this to find the best place to lay their eggs.

Rabbits have 17,000 taste buds which is more than humans. They can distinguish sweet, sour, bitter and salty and can tell the difference between toxic and non-toxic plants through taste.



Birds can have 50-500 taste buds compared to humans who have 9,000-10,000 taste buds. Our sense of taste is much stronger than theirs.



Honeybees can taste the difference between sweet, sour, bitter and salty.



A bee's taste receptors are found on their antennae, jaws and forelimbs. These help them to detect the sweetness of a flower.



