


Build a Bird and Wildlife Park

 Teacher-led Classroom/Field Activity
Science/Research/Engineering Design/Math

What would the “perfect” park look like through the eyes of the birds and wildlife that live in or migrate through your area?

Objective:

Students conduct research then design and, if possible, implement their designs of a park and its components as habitat for birds and other wildlife.



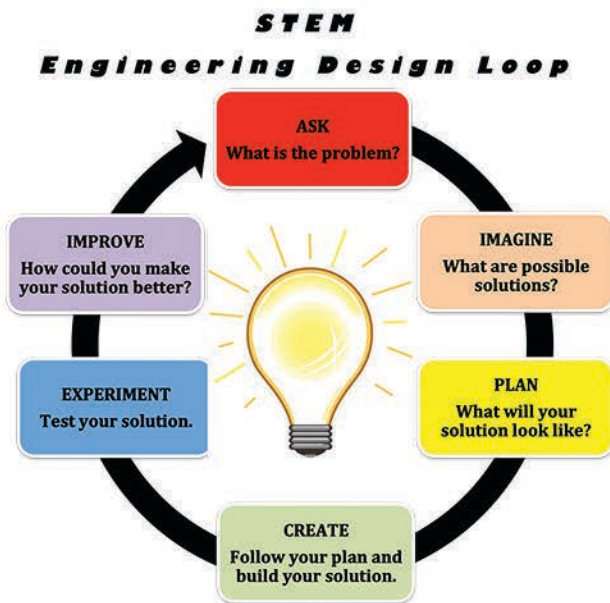
Research Questions and Procedures:

1. Research the types of birds and wildlife that are found in your area.
 - Are they year-round residents?
 - Are they migrants that fly through in the fall and spring?
2. What are the needs of your wildlife “tenants” and how will you provide for them?
 - Do they need water...
 - to live in?
 - to get food from?
 - to simply swim around in?
 - Where do they live and in what type of habitat do they live/nest?
 - What do they eat?
3. How will people fit into your park without disturbing the birds?
 - Consider constructing walking areas/boardwalks to keep people out of critical habitat.
 - Would it be advantageous to build “blinds” in various locations for wildlife photographers? If so, where would you place them?

Sample Activities/Projects

- Design the park and draw it to scale. Small groups can address specific parts of the park and put everything together at the end to create the entire park.
- Design and build a nest box.
- Design and build a water feature.
- Design and build a birding blind.
- Design and build walkways/boardwalks.

Turn any/all of these activities into STEM lessons. Utilize the Engineering Design Loop below and have the students actually build the park and/or components as listed above.



Helpful Websites

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>
<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>
<http://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
<http://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0>
<http://www.audubon.org/magazine/july-august-2013/how-create-bird-friendly-yard>
<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Wildlife/Attracting-Birds.aspx>