

UNIT III **Constructing a Schoolyard Research Plan**

UNIT OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS (with Aviary classroom staff)

PREPARING FOR LESSON 1

After the Unit III Workshop you should...

1. Set up the feeders and fill them with food. (See Feeder Set-up and Maintenance Guidelines in Lesson 1 Appendix for more detailed instructions.)
2. Assign students to research teams.
3. Pre-schedule 5 or more feeder observation sessions within the time between the Aviary Lesson 1 visit and Lesson 5 presentation visit. Be sure to coordinate feeder observation sessions with other participating teachers at your school.
4. Review Lesson 1 and prepare your classroom in anticipation of the Aviary visit.

LESSON 1 CLASSROOM

With your students we will...

1. Practice identifying local birds using the Feathered Friends Field Guide Poster.
2. Explore ideas for your classroom schoolyard feeder research project.
3. Describe the Scientific Method, construct a hypothesis for a classroom research project, and outline the design for a classroom research experiment.

LESSON 2 CLASSROOM

As part of Lesson 2 you will...

1. Introduce and checkout binoculars according to the lesson plan.
2. Introduce observation sheets and complete practice feeder observation session.
3. Direct students to begin pages 1 and 2 in the Reference Guide section of the Unit III Avian Explorer Handbooks.

AFTER LESSON 2

After Lesson 2 you should...

1. Facilitate at least *three* student feeder observation sessions prior to Lesson 3.
2. Collect team reports from team captains and compile data on Master Observation Sheets.
3. List three challenges you and your students have faced during your research, or questions that have arisen from your experience, in preparation for Lesson 3 problem-solving discussion.
4. Review Lesson 3 and prepare classroom in anticipation of Aviary staff visit.

LESSON 3 CLASSROOM

With your students we will...

1. Resolve any challenges you and your students are having with your research and answer any questions regarding your research experience.
2. Explore examples of graphs and charts to display feeder research data.
3. Construct a graph with hands-on activity.

**LESSON 4 & 5
CLASSROOM**

As part of Lessons 4 & 5 you will help your students ...

1. Discuss feeder research results and conclusions and brainstorm ideas on how to display those conclusions.
2. Prepare class presentation to share what students have learned.
3. Coordinate with other participating AVES teachers at your school the order, length, and content of each classroom presentation to ensure that the presentation is an interesting and varied experience for everyone.

**PRESENTATION
(Approx. 1 hr)**

We look forward to your presentations!

Please prepare bird feeders, stakes, binoculars, and field guides for return to the Tracy Aviary staff on the day of the presentation.