



## Curriculum Connections

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### Hummingbird True or False Quiz

This quick quiz highlights some little-known facts and dispels some misconceptions about hummingbirds. Use the quiz as a pre- and post-assessment. As your class learns more about hummingbirds, let them add their own items to the quiz or create a whole new quiz for another class to take. [more](#)

### Territorial Tactics

**Overview:** Territorial Tactics is an energetic tag game in which students simulate the territorial behavior and survival strategies of hummingbirds. It is designed to teach students tactics used by dominant territorial hummingbirds to guard a feeder or patch of nectar plants, and tactics used by other hummingbirds to try to feed from that protected food source. (The game is like Capture the Flag with a few adaptations.) [more](#)

### Migration Mishaps

**Overview:** Migration Mishaps is a game that helps to demonstrate why animals that migrate, such as hummingbirds, are threatened by habitat destruction. [more](#)

### Design a Hummingbird Flower

**Overview:** In this activity, students design and create a flower adapted for pollination by hummingbirds. [more](#)



### Which Plants to Plant?

**Overview:** Students research hummingbird-attracting plants and make selections to grow in a school garden. [more](#)

### Make Your Own Hummingbird Feeder

**Overview:** Based on what they know about hummingbirds, students will design and create their own feeder using everyday materials. [more](#)

### Hummingbird Inquiry Ideas

Hummingbird gardens and feeders arouse curiosity and enable students to design experiments to answer their own questions about the birds' behavior. Here are some questions and mysteries to get them started.

#### ***Which type of feeder is most attractive to hummingbirds?***

**Tip:** Test several different types of commercial feeders or make your own. Hang the feeders in proximity to one another. Observe birds feeding and measure how much nectar has been consumed from each feeder. Be aware that one dominant bird may guard the feeder it prefers and force others to feed at less preferable feeders.

## Contents

[Pg. 1: Creating a Schoolyard Hummingbird Habitat](#)

[Pg. 2: Curriculum Connections](#)

[Hummingbird True or False](#)

[Territorial Tactics](#)

[Migration Mishaps](#)

[Design a Hummingbird Flower](#)

[Which Plants to Plant?](#)

[Make Your Own Hummingbird Feeder](#)

[Hummingbird Inquiry Ideas](#)

## Resources

[Web Sites We Like](#)

[Hummer Books for Kids](#)

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## Related Articles

[Creating a Habitat](#)

[Gardens to Entice Feathered Friends](#)

[Flower Courtship](#)

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### Answers to Your Gardening Questions

Our gardening experts will tackle your growing dilemmas.

***Do hummingbirds feed more or less often at feeders placed near nectar flowers than at feeders placed far away from them?***

**Tip:** Place one feeder in or near the hummingbird garden. Place another feeder of the same type in a distant but easy-to-view location. Observe birds feeding and measure how much nectar has been consumed from each feeder.

***Do hummingbirds really prefer red?***

**Tip:** Obtain colorless feeders or make your own. Color the feeders with non-toxic paint or tie differently colored ribbons on them. Place the feeders in similar locations or the same location. Observe birds feeding and measure how much nectar has been consumed from each feeder.

***Which flowers are most attractive to hummingbirds?***

**Tip:** Observe hummingbirds feeding at different times of the day. Use a stopwatch to record the amount of time a bird spends feeding at each type of flower. Graph and compare feeding times, showing the favorite flowers in order of preference.



***Do hummingbirds prefer nectar made from purified water over nectar made from ordinary tap water?***

**Tip:** Make two batches of nectar, one using purified water and one using tap water. Use two identical feeders placed at the same location, just a few feet apart, each with a different batch of nectar. (Be sure to label them.) Record daily observations. Reverse the feeders and keep recording. Compare results with those at [Natural Instinct](#) (click on *Hummingbird*).

***Do hummingbirds prefer nectar made from white cane sugar or white beet sugar?***

**Tip:** Granulated white table sugar used to make hummingbird nectar can be made from beets or cane. The sucrose should be the same in both products, however, there is some anecdotal evidence from reliable observers that hummingbirds do prefer nectar made from cane sugar (may be due to different



Photo courtesy Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

residues). The source of the sugar is usually written on the front of the bag it comes in. Find out if your hummers have a preference!

More questions (primarily for high school students) are available from [Operation Rubythroat](#).

**Caution:** When investigating questions related to hummingbirds, be careful not to set up an experiment that could cause harm to the birds. For example, never experiment with providing nectars of different concentrations or nectars made from any substances other than ordinary granulated white table sugar.

**More Ideas for Crossing the Curriculum with Hummingbirds**

**Operation Rubythroat** has a whole section of [cross-disciplinary activities](#) for art, drama, geography, music, math or writing.

**Journey North** also has a collection of Hummingbird [lessons, activities and information](#) as well as weekly [challenge questions](#).



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**Special Opportunities**

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