

The Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus Haematodus*)

Did you know?

The Rainbow Lorikeet is a type of parrot which is known for its distinctive colours. They are mainly found in Australia where they live in the rainforest, woodlands and coastal bushland areas. They mainly feed on nectar, fruit and pollen which they can find easily in these areas. They even have specially adapted tongues to help them to eat the nectar!



The picture on the left shows a Rainbow Lorikeet. Both the males and the females of this type have the same bold colours, so it is difficult to tell them apart. They live in pairs but can come together in larger flocks, especially where their homes are threatened, and they have to live in areas where more humans live. They lay their eggs in the hollows of tall trees, such as palm trees or eucalyptus trees.

Activity.

Investigate the area surrounding your school or house. Can you spot five different types of birds that live near you?

Write down the names of five types of birds that live near you below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Did you know?

Although birds, such as the Rainbow Lorikeet, find it relatively easy to find food in the rainforest or woodland areas it is more difficult for them to find food when these areas get taken over by humans. Deforestation or the cutting down of trees by humans to use for paper production or so that the humans can build houses and farms is a big problem all over the world.

Activity.

Building a bird feeder can help the birds in your area to eat, especially when the weather gets a bit chillier. Follow the instructions below in order to make your own bird feeder:

You will need:

- Two or three decently sized pine or fir cones.
- Some medium sized string (avoid thread or dental floss which can be a tangle hazard for birds)
- Scissors.
- A mixing bowl.
- Some suet, lard or a good quality low additive peanut butter (good for energy stores for the bird)
- Some mixed seeds (the best ones contain flaked maize, sunflower seeds and peanut granules)
- A spoon for mixing.

Method:

Put your suet, lard or peanut butter into a bowl along with your mixed seeds and mix them together with your spoon or your hands until you have a nice, even mix.

Carefully, cut three small lengths of string with the scissors and tie them around the pinecones with a loop at the top so that your feeders can be looped around a branch or peg.

Pack your mix from your bowl around the pinecones so that you have a nice even layer of the mix.

Hang the pinecones on trees or pegs in your school grounds or your own garden and take some pictures of the birds so that you can show them to your class.