

BIRDS LESSON PLAN

Lesson Topic: Birds Grade level: Elementary Grades

Length of lesson: Approximately 5 days; will vary based on age and ability

Curriculum Developer: Jennifer Mooney, M.Ed.

Stage 1 – Desired Results	
<p>Content Standard(s): Instructor will determine which standards this lesson aligns to based on which standards (state or common core) are to be followed.</p>	
<p>Understanding (s)/goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will understand that birds are a unique group within the animal kingdom. 	<p>Essential Question(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the characteristics of a bird distinguish them from other animal groups?
<p>Student objectives (outcomes): Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 5 common characteristics of most birds. Name at least 5 birds and tell 2 facts about each one. Identify birds versus non-birds. Understand key vocabulary from <u>The Fascinating World of Birds</u> video. 	
Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence	
<p>Performance Task(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual assessment: Students will research and create a “Wanted” or “Lost” poster about a bird of their choice. The poster should include a picture of the bird and at least 5 unique descriptors. 	<p>Other Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of cloze activity while watching <u>The Fascinating World of Birds</u> video. Completion of multiple choice quizzes at the end of <u>The Fascinating World of Birds</u> video. Teacher will observe students as they work on the tasks Assess students in class through conversations and questioning

Stage 3 – Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

- Do KWL (what you know/what you want to know/what you have learned) to assess students' prior knowledge.
- Watch The Fascinating World of Birds video; complete cloze activity while watching.
- Discuss specific unique characteristics of birds; create list
- Birds vs. non-birds card sort.
- Clarify and provide further explanation, if needed, of “The Big Words.”
- Complete academic vocabulary booklet with “The Big Words.” Print off multiple pages of the graphic organizer. Allow student to create a cover on a blank piece of paper. Staple all pages together into a booklet.
- Write a fictional story with birds as characters, incorporating characteristics of the birds. May or may not include drawn pictures. Length requirements based on age and ability level.

Field Trip Ideas:

- *Zoo
- *Aviary
- *Audubon Society
- *Museum of Natural History
- *Identify birds in your backyard or local park

BIRDS CLOZE

DIRECTIONS: While watching The Fascinating World of Birds, circle the word that best completes the sentence with the correct information you hear from the video.

1. Birds are warm-blooded which means they maintain a constant (**body, shoe, hair**) temperature no matter how hot or cold it is outside their body. Like mammals and reptiles, all birds are vertebrates, which means they have a backbone, skull and ribs. Birds have hollow bones with a special design that makes them strong and light weight. The hollow bones enable the bird to fly with less effort.

2. Feathers grow out of a bird's skin. They aid in flight, determine appearance, provide insulation, and help waterproof the bird. Birds have different types of feathers including down (**hair, skin, feathers**) and contour feathers. Birds have a feather covered forelimb, called a wing, on each side of its body. Wings are essential for helping the bird lift off the ground and fly. However, some birds do not fly; instead their wings are used for swimming or for balance.

3. All birds have toothless beaks, sometimes called bills, projecting from their mouths. A beak is streamlined and light weight aiding in a bird's flight. All birds lay (**eggs, balls, pumpkins**) with a hard outer shell. This is where their young develop before they are born. Birds incubate, or sit on their eggs to keep them warm while they are growing. Birds can lay one or more eggs at a time. Several eggs laid together in a nest are called a clutch.

4. Even though they have wings, ostriches can't fly. Their wings are used for (**standing, balance, endurance**) as they run and also help keep them warm. They can run amazingly fast. Ostriches can run at about 30 miles per hour for a long time and can reach a maximum speed of well over 40 miles per hour. When they are running, ostriches take huge strides that can be over 12 feet long.

5. Penguins are flightless birds that have special features for their aquatic lifestyle. Instead of wings they have flippers specially designed for swimming. They are the fastest swimming and deepest diving of any bird. They can swim as fast as (**10, 15, 20**) miles per hour and leap above the surface of the water to take a breath.

6. Canada geese are known for their seasonal migrations, flying (**north, east, south**) for the winter and north in the summer. Most Canada Geese have staging or resting areas where they join up with others. When migrating, they often fly in a V shaped formation to reduce air resistance and make flying easier. This allows the group, or flock, to cover a long distance with much less effort.

7. Owls have front facing eyes like people, but unlike human eyes which can move from side to side, owl eyes move very little. Instead, they have flexible (**ears, necks, tongues**) that allow them to twist their heads far enough to see all around them. The forward facing eyes increase depth perception and are useful for low light hunting.

8. Hummingbirds are among the (**smallest, noisiest, largest**) birds. Most range in size from 3 to 5 inches and may weigh less than a nickel. They can hover in mid-air and are the only bird that can fly backward. They flap their wings up to 90 times per second during normal flight and can fly at about 25–30 miles per hour. While in flight, hummingbirds have the highest metabolism of all animals which is necessary to support the rapid beating of their wings.

9. Woodpeckers peck for several reasons. First, they use pecking as one way to talk to each other by drumming on objects such as hollow trees, logs and utility poles. Pecking is also used to hollow out trees in order to provide a safe place for them and their young to nest. Finally, woodpeckers search for food by drilling holes into trees and removing bark. A woodpecker's (**teeth, toes, tongue**) is up to 4 inches long and some have barbs that help them pull bugs out of the hole.

10. Macaws are (**social, shy, quiet**) birds. They are playful and intelligent and are often seen grooming each other. Many Macaws have harsh, loud screeching calls that are good for communicating in the jungle but can be very annoying for pet owners and their neighbors. A macaw can screech as loud as a helicopter or chain saw. They can be heard from over a mile away.

11. Pelicans are excellent fliers. They have a special layer of fibers deep in their chest muscle that is used to hold the wings very rigid. This allows them to glide for a long period of time and they have been known to (**run, fly, swim**) close to 100 miles to get to their feeding areas. Pelicans like to preen by rubbing their bill and head on a special oily gland. They transfer the oil from the gland to their plumage in order to make it more waterproof.

BIRDS CLOZE, PAGE 2

12. The American Robin loves to sing. It sings all day long, often starting before the sun rises. The Robin is also one of the last birds to finish singing in the evening. Their songs vary depending on the time of day, season and location. In addition to its (**dancing, singing, playing**), the American Robin has a number of distinct calls used for communicating specific information. For example, they have a series of warning calls. One call tells that a predator is coming close and another call is made when the Robin or nest is directly threatened. The alarming calls are sometimes made together with adult robins dive-bombing predators as they approach.

13. In most cases, adult female eagles are much larger than the males. Their platform nest is a large structure, often many times the size of the eagle that built it. These (**cars, nests, pouches**) are commonly used for many years, with new material added to repair and expand it each season. The female lays one to three eggs, each a day apart. The female is mostly responsible for sitting on the eggs but the male will take his turn when the female leaves to hunt.

BIRDS CLOZE, PAGE 3

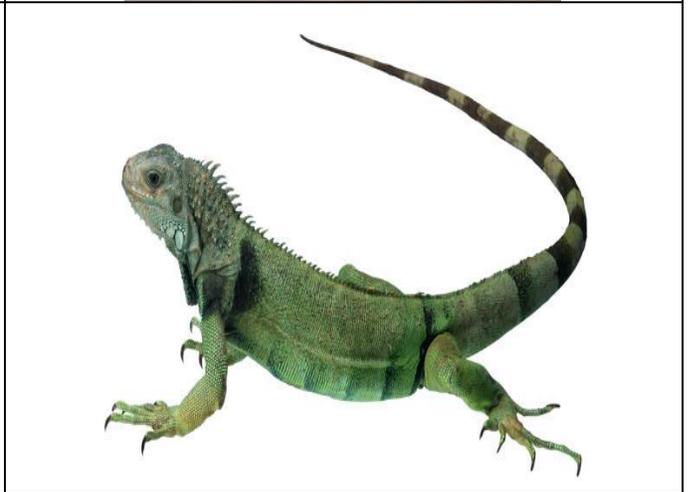
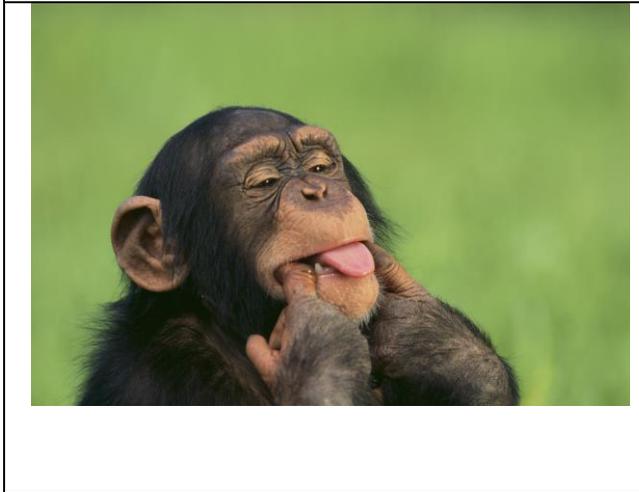
BIRDS CARD SORT

DIRECTIONS: Cut out word cards and picture cards. Glue them onto 3 x 5 notecards. Sort cards into two piles: birds and non-birds.

Ostrich	Rhino Beetle
Eagle	Ant
Penguin	Ladybug
Canada goose	Goldfish
Owl	Moose
Hummingbird	Salmon
Woodpecker	Snake
Macaw	Bat
American Robin	Chimpanzee
Pelican	Iguana







ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Word:

Dictionary **Definition**:

Use the word in a complete sentence. This should help broaden your understanding of the word.

Draw a **picture** to help you explain what this word means:

BIRDS QUIZ

DIRECTIONS: Circle the answer that best completes the question/statement.

1. Which bird runs faster on land than any other bird?

A. Owl

B. Ostrich

C. Hummingbird

2. This bird's wings are specifically designed for swimming.

A. Macaw

B. Eagle

C. Penguin

3. Which bird migrates over long distances in a V shape formation?

A. Canada Goose

B. Owl

C. American Robin

4. This bird has blue eggs and can have several broods in a season.

A. Pelican

B. Woodpecker

C. American Robin

5. Which bird flies very quietly helping it hunt at night?

A. Hummingbird

B. Macaw

C. Owl

6. This bird can hover in place, flapping its wings up to 90 times per second.

A. American Robin

B. Hummingbird

C. Eagle

7. Which bird drills holes in trees to find food or build nests?

A. Woodpecker

B. Canada Goose

C. Ostrich

8. Which bird can screech as loud as a chain saw?

A. Penguin

B. Macaw

C. Pelican

9. This bird has a special throat sack attached to its long bill that it uses for fishing

A. Penguin

B. Canada Goose

C. Pelican

BIRDS QUIZ, PAGE 2

10. Which bird builds the largest nest of any bird in North America?

A. Eagle

B. Ostrich

C. Canada Goose

BIRDS QUIZ, PAGE 3

THE BIG WORDS QUIZ

DIRECTIONS: Circle the answer that best completes the question/statement.

1. A person who studies birds is called an....
 - A. Ichthyologist.
 - B. Entomologist.
 - C. Ornithologist.
2. What is the specialized muscular stomach in which stones are stored?
 - A. Beak.
 - B. Liver
 - C. Gizzard.
3. What is the ability to float or rise in water called?
 - A. Buoyancy
 - B. Aquatic
 - C. Inactivity.
4. These help insulate birds and contributes to its buoyancy in water.
 - A. Down Feathers.
 - B. Beak.
 - C. Metabolism.

5. A bird's ability to tell how far away it is from an object is called...
- A. Eyesight
 - B. Depth Perception
 - C. Echolocation
6. How fast or slow an animal uses energy is called...
- A. Metabolism
 - B. Adaptation
 - C. Insulation
7. When two toes face forward and two toes face back on a birds foot, it is called...
- A. Gripping
 - B. Prehensile
 - C. Zygodactyl
8. What is the layer of feathers covering a bird called?
- A. Plumage
 - B. Skin
 - C. Fur
9. What is it called when a bird grooms itself by using its beak to remove dirt and adjust its feathers?
- A. Molting
 - B. Preening
 - C. Cleaning

10. All of the chicks from the same clutch of eggs is called a...

A. Flock

B. School

C. Brood

11. A bird of prey that hunts and catches food while in flight is called a...

A. Raptor

B. Herbivore

C. Prey

THE BIG WORDS QUIZ, PAGE 3

QUIZ ANSWER KEYS

Birds Quiz

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. A

The Big Words Quiz

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C
11. A

WANTED

Bird Name

Description: _____

Place picture of bird here.