

Ball State University
Field Station and Environmental Education Center

Lesson Plan: Let's Learn About Birds

Unit: Life Sciences

Grade: 1st

Essential Questions:

1. What parts of the life cycle do all living things have in common?
2. What are the parts of a bird, and how does a bird use these parts throughout its day?
3. How are adult and baby birds alike? Different?
4. What are the habitat requirements of birds?

Learning Targets:

1. Students should be able to:
 - a. List the following parts of the life cycle: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
 - b. Identify 3 or more parts of a bird, and explain what the bird uses them for.
 - c. Compare and contrast baby and adult birds.
 - d. List the 5 habitat requirements of birds and all living organisms: food, water, shelter, space, and air.

Directions: With parental supervision, have your child watch our "Let's Learn About Birds" video (<https://youtu.be/e9BYoGDqy78>) on our educational Youtube page. The video is 3:22 minutes long, and briefly explains bird anatomy, life cycles, and habitat needs. After watching the video, have your child complete the worksheets below. Then, take your child for a walk to look for places a bird could find its habitat needs.

Assessment(s):

- Worksheet 1: Bird Body Parts
 - Using the word bank, label each body part of the cardinal.
 - Can be completed digitally or on paper
 - Optional: color in the cardinal and identify if it's a male or female (males are red all over, females are mostly brown)
- Worksheet 2: Connect the Life Cycle
 - Draw lines connecting the picture of the life cycle stage to its description
 - Can be completed digitally or on paper
- Outdoor activity:
 - Take a walk outside (with parental supervision) and look for places that a bird could meet its habitat needs. Examples could include flowers as a source of food, or a tree as shelter.

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Indiana State Science Standards:

- 1.LS.1 Develop representations to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- 1.LS.2 Develop a model mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. Explore how those external parts could solve a human problem.

Next Generation Science Standards:

- 1-LS1-2. Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.
- 1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.