

AMAZING BIRDS

Fantastic Feathered Friends

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Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center

Teacher's Guide

Winter Program: Amazing Birds

Grades: Kindergarten – Sixth grade

Program Length: 45 minutes – 1 hour

INTRODUCTION

Do you love birds? If you do, you're not alone! Birds are so fun to watch in nature and you can find them on every continent. Why do birds have feathers? Why do birds build nests? Why do some birds migrate and others do not? What is the farthest a bird can fly without refueling? How do birds know where to go when they migrate? Why are there so many adaptations in the world of birds? What stories do the beak and feet tell about a bird's life? What are birds saying with their songs and calls? These questions and more will be answered with the **Amazing Birds** in-school program.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to the many amazing adaptations of birds around the world.
2. To compare and contrast the similarities and differences of native bird species in Illinois.
3. To better understand migration flyways and why some birds migrate and some are year round residents.
4. To encourage students to find ways to offer improvements to habitats and bird feeding stations increasing healthy populations of native birds in Central Illinois.
5. To increase awareness and appreciation of our feathered friends and their native ecosystems in Illinois.

THIS PROGRAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MEET THE FOLLOWING ILLINOIS STATE STANDARDS:

Learning Area	Goal	Standard	Benchmark
Language Arts	4	A	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b
Language Arts	4	B	1b, 2b
Science	11	A	1a, 1b, 2a
Science	12	A	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b
Science	12	B	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3b
Social Sciences	16	A	1a, 2b
Social Sciences	17	C	1a, 2a, 2c

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Take a walk around the schoolyard or neighborhood looking for signs of bird life. Even in the winter, birds are usually easy to see and to hear. Look for old bird nests, holes in trees, bird tracks in snow, etc. When back in the classroom, create a class list or poem that represents “all things Bird” that were discovered while outdoors near the school.
2. After the walk and bird observations, brainstorm a list of ways to improve the habitat and bird feeding opportunities for feathered friends near the school.
3. Read any of the books recommended in the Resource List at the end of this Teacher’s Guide and share them with the class.
4. Collect pictures of birds from around the world. Create matching and/or sorting games to help students learn to classify avian friends according to beak, feet, food preference, or habitat.

DESCRIPTION OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN PROGRAM

After a brief overview of Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center’s native habitats for birds and current winter bird feeding program, a naturalist-led discussion about birds’ needs, adaptations, similarities and differences leads to a list of questions about birds that the students would like to know. These questions are addressed as students are shown native bird mounts, bird nests and eggs from the Garden’s educational permitted collection. Experiential games and activities help children to learn more about beak adaptations and food choices,

migration, flyways, wingspan, and wing beats while having fun and moving about the classroom. The presentation concludes with suggestions of how to create feeding stations for birds and other year round wildlife residents in the backyard or schoolyard.

SUGGESTIONS FOR POST PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students to bring an empty milk carton to school to construct a simple bird feeder. Hang the feeders in trees around the school and observe birds that feed on the seed or send the birdfeeders home with a small amount of birdseed for each student to fill their birdfeeder with when hung at home.
2. Make birdfeeders from pinecones covered with peanut butter or suet and rolled in birdseed. Hang these feeders from tree branches and observe the birds that come to feed. Make a chart to determine the most constant feeders.
3. Ask students to choose a favorite bird to research, write about, and illustrate. Take this writing into fiction and ask the students to create a story of the bird's life from egg in the nest to adult. Encourage choices that include migration and address the many different adaptations of bird species.
4. Read and share any of the books included in the Resource List at the end of this Teacher's Guide.
5. Schedule a field trip to Lincoln Memorial Garden or another natural area to hike and to observe winter bird life in the wild.

RESOURCE LIST FOR AMAZING BIRDS: Fantastic Feathered Friends

Ames, Lee J. *Draw 50 Birds: The Step by Step Way to Draw Chickadees, Peacocks, Toucans, Mallards, and Many More of Our Feathered Friends*. Broadway Books: Random House. 1996

Baylor, Byrd. *Hawk, I'm Your Brother*. Simon & Schuster. 1976

Boring, Mel. *Birds, Nests, and Eggs*. NorthWords Press. 2001

Boring, Mel. *Flamingos, Loons, and Pelicans*. NorthWords Press. 2006

Burnie, David. *Bird: A Definitive Visual Guide*. Eyewitness Books. 2007

Davis, Jacqueline. *The Boy Who Drew Birds*. Houghton Mifflin. 2004

DeVore, Sheryl, Bailey, Steven D. and Kennedy, Gregory. *Birds of Illinois. Lone Pine Publishing International. 2004*

Harrison, George H. *Backyard Bird Watching: How to Attract, Feed and Provide Homes for Birds. WillowCreek Press. 1997*

Harrison, Hal. *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests East of the Mississippi River. Houghton Mifflin. 1975*

Henkes, Kevin. *Birds. GreenWillow Books. 2009*

Holub, Joan. *Why Do Birds Sing? Penguin Books. 2004*

Kalman, Bobbie. *What is Migration? Crabtree Publishing Co. 2002*

Kress, Stephen W. *The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders. Charles Schribner's Sons Publishers. 1981*

Matthews, Tina. *Out of the Egg. Houghton Mifflin Co. 2007*

McLerran, Alice and Carle, Eric. *The Mountain That Loved a Bird. Simon & Schuster. 1985*

Peterson, Roger Tory. *A Field Guide to the Birds. Houghton Mifflin Co. 1982*

Sayre, April Pulley. *Home at Last: A Song of Migration. Henry Holt and Co. 1998*

Sill, Cathryn. *About Birds: A Guide for Children. NorthWords Press. 1991*

Stokes, Donald. *A Guide to Nature in Winter. Little, Brown, and Co. 1976*

Stokes, Donald. *A Guide to Bird Behavior: Volume I. Little, Brown and Co. 1979*

Stokes, Donald. *A Guide to Bird Behavior: Volume II. Little, Brown and Co. 1983*

Stokes, Donald and Lillian. *The Birdfeeder Book. Little, Brown and Co. 1987*

