Science Story Adventures

Migratory Birds

Learning outcomes

» Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 – Life Sciences)

» Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. (Grade 3 – Life Sciences).

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Unbeatable Beaks by Stephen R. Swinburne

Welcome, Brown Bird by Mary Lyn Ray

Activities we did

» We looked at the beaks of different bird specimens and determined what they ate based on the shape and size of their beak. We then played the Bird Beak Buffet game.

» We talked about how birds migrate.

Today's craft: Hummingbird

You will need:

» Hummingbird template (included)
» Cardstock
» Crayons
» Scissors
» Glue
» Paper clip (optional)

Directions:

1. Print the hummingbird template on cardstock. Color in the bird body parts: beak (2 triangles), body, tail and wings (the rectangle).
2. Cut around all of the shapes (i.e. don't cut between tail feathers or cut beak into two triangles) and then cut the dotted lines, which will serve as slots to insert body parts.
3. Fold the bird body in half (where the faces meet). Fold the beak in half (at the tips) and use a glue stick to attach the wide ends to the bird's face.
4. Accordion fold the rectangle length-wise and pinch together about an inch in the middle. Your folds should be about ½ inch each
5. Insert pinched area of the wings into the slot on the bird's shoulders and open wings by pulling on the corners of the folded rectangle away from each other. Your wings will fit best if the "shoulders" (area right above the slot) of your bird bend away from each other.
6. Line up the slits and attach the tail to the body. Your tail will work best if the area above each slot is bent away from the middle.
7. If your bird is tipping forward too far, add a paperclip to the tail to balance the weight.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Beaks! by Sneed B. Collard III. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL697 .C66 2002

Hooked beaks, swishing beaks, digging beaks and, even, upside down beaks--learn about them all in this playful and informative book.

Bird by David Burnie. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL676.2 .B87 2004

El Pájaro y Su Nido por David Burnie. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL676.2 .B86818 1992*

All about birds in the usual Eyewitness series style: lots of pictures and facts.

Birdwise by Pamela M. Hickman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL676.2 .H52 1988

Activities and information for you to learn more about the birds in your backyard.

Dancers in the Garden by Joanne Ryder. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ10.3 .R954 Dan 1992

The warm spring sun wakes a hummingbird in the Japanese Garden in Golden Gate Park. Fly with him as he explores the garden.

How Do Birds Find Their Way? by Roma Gans. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL698.9 .G36 1996

This narrative non-fiction book introduces young readers to the wonders of bird migration.

DVDs

The Life of Birds. Nat. Ctr. Media QL 698.3 .L53 2002

David Attenborough journeys across seven continents filming thousands of species of birds, revealing their patterns of behavior.

Websites

All About Birds

A great online source on birds and bird watching.

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (or GBBC) is an event that takes place over four days in February each year. Learn about how to participate, and if it's not February, there's some information about birds in your area and bird games to play, too!

http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/kids

International Migratory Bird Day

The official website for International Migratory Bird Day, which occurs every year on the second Saturday in May. The site includes a list of activities happening to celebrate the day, as well as other educational resources on migratory birds.

http://www.birdday.org/

**Libro en español*

Material prepared by staff of the Naturalist Center at the California Academy of Sciences

Hummingbird Template