

Science Story Adventures



Ostriches

Learning outcomes

- » Students know stories sometimes give plants and animals attributes they do not really have. (Kindergarten - Life Sciences)
- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Students know that some kinds of organisms that once lived on Earth have completely disappeared and that some of those resembled others that are alive today. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Why Can't I Fly? by Ken Brown

How the Ostrich Got Its Long Neck retold by Verna Aardema

Activities we did

- » We learned that the connection between ostriches and earthquakes is plate tectonics.
- » We examined ostrich specimens and compared them to specimens from other birds to learn about what characteristics prevent ostriches from flying.
- » We explored other adaptations that ostriches have besides flying to help them escape predators.
- » We compared and contrasted ostrich and chicken eggs and talked about how ostriches care for their young.

Today's craft: Hatching Ostrich



You will need:

- » Egg and ostrich chick templates (included)
- » Cardstock
- » Tan construction paper
- » Scissors
- » Pencil
- » Hole puncher
- » Brass fastener
- » Crayons
- » Glue

Directions:

1. Print out the egg and ostrich chick templates on cardstock.
2. Cut out the egg and punch holes at the dots with the hole puncher. Put a brass fastener through the hole to attach the two egg parts.
3. Cut out the ostrich chick. Trace it on the construction paper and cut it out.
4. Color your ostrich and glue it to the bottom of the egg so that its head and neck are peeking out.

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

Avestruces por Lynn M. Stone. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL696 .S9 S7618 1992*

Everything you want to know about ostriches including where they live, what they eat, and how they care for their young.

Mariluz Avestruz por Rachel Chaundler.*

Mariluz thinks she has the most beautiful feathers of all, but her vanity soon gets her into trouble. This book has a useful lesson, and it can also be used to introduce ostrich characteristics and to dispel the myth that ostriches sleep with their head in the sand.

The Lonely Lioness and the Ostrich Chicks retold by Verna Aardema. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ8.1 .A213 Lo 1996

In this Masai folktale, a lioness is lonely so she decides to adopt some ostrich chicks. The other animals on the savanna aren't convinced that the chicks really belong to the lioness. Will mother ostrich be able to get her chicks back?

Ostriches by Thane Maynard. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL696 .S9 M39 2007

Full-page, vibrant photographs and informative text introduce the reader to the world of ostriches. The book also has a glossary and bibliography for further reading.

Ostriches, Emus, Rheas, Kiwis & Cassowaries by John Bonnett Wexo. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL676 .E47 1990

An overview of the ratites, the name for this group of birds that all share the characteristic of not being able to fly. Includes information on their special adaptations, their prehistoric ancestors, and human-ratite interactions. Part of the "Zoobooks" series.

**Libro en español*

DVDs

Life of Birds. Nat. Ctr. Media. QL698.3 .L53 2002

The first episode, "To Fly or not to Fly?," in this classic series explores how some birds evolved the ability to fly, while others, like ostriches stayed grounded.

Websites

ARKive: Ostrich

General information, photos and several videos of ostriches.

<http://www.arkive.org/ostrich/struthio-camelus/>

Creature Feature: Ostrich

Fun facts, a short video and a range map for ostriches can all be found on this National Geographic Kids website.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/ostrich/>

San Diego Zoo Animal Bytes: Ostrich

Do ostriches really put their heads in the sand? Find out and learn other cool facts about ostriches on this website. <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-ostrich.html>



