



Birds

Make a picture using feathers

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology and Art

Time: 1 hour



Learning through Landscapes

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

© This activity sheet was created by the Learning through Landscapes Trust. Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SC038890

What should learners already know?

- A bird is covered in many different types of feathers.

What equipment will I need?

- Feathers of different types (wing, down, contour etc.)
- Paint
- Paper or card
- Paint brushes
- PVA Glue
- Optional: Dried leaves

How will learners explore this?

1. Provide children with a range of feathers, grouped into type: Down, Wing, Contour, Semiplume.
2. Discuss why the feathers look different from one another – e.g. the down feathers are for keeping the bird warm, the wing feathers are for creating a large, streamlined surface area for the wing.
3. Get children to pick out which feathers they would like for their painting.
4. Optional: Take children outside to look around the school grounds for some dried leaves to add to their painting.
5. Children will make a painting incorporating both feathers and leaves.
6. Encourage them to draw upon landscapes or the outdoors for inspiration, although let their creativity go wild!

How can we show the learning?

- Can children explain why some feathers look different from one another?
- Does each category of feather look similar to each other? Does this depend on species?
- What purposes do feathers serve for birds?
- Can children name all the different types of feather?
- What landscapes did children create paintings of? What have paintings been inspired by?



Co-funded by the European Union



LUND UNIVERSITY



LUNDS KOMMUN



Naturskolan i Lund



SEO BirdLife



BirdLife MALTA