



Birds

# Bird chorus resource

Age: 7-14

Topic: Music

Time: 1 hour



Learning through Landscapes

## What should learners already know?

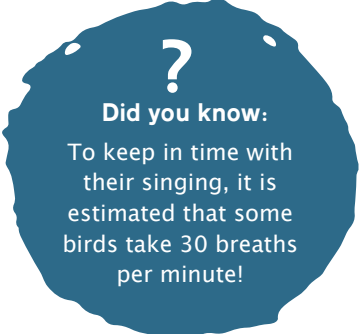
- Many birds use song as a way to communicate with each other. Singing can serve many different purposes for birds.

## What equipment will I need?

- Voices
- Optional: whistles

## How will learners explore this?

1. Tell children to imagine that they are a bird and need to communicate with others of their species. Can they create songs and calls to converse with other birds?
2. The sounds birds make are distinctive so that other birds can understand and respond to their calls.
3. Working in pairs or small groups, encourage children to compose some bird calls for their imagined bird species.
4. Think about what kinds of calls birds would need to make?
5. How will you make each call different so that other birds know what they mean?
6. Birds create elaborate and repeated song during the morning chorus which happens in Springtime as male birds call for the mates. Can you develop song to attract other birds?
7. Get each group to perform their bird call song to the class!



## How can we show the learning?

- How did children approach this song composition task? Was it easy or difficult to improvise a bird song? Was it easy or difficult to try and convey meaning with abstract sounds?
- How different did each group's bird song sound? Why did different groups choose to make their song sound like it did?
- Encourage children to think about all the different ways in which birds use their songs or their calls.
- How is singing similar or different to the ways that other animals communicate with one another?
- How is singing similar or different to the ways that we as humans communicate?
- There are many different reasons that birds sing. The group of birds known as 'songbirds' are those most recognised for singing in this way, but other birds also use call to communicate.
- Male birds generally use bird call to warn other species, to claim territory, to warn of predators or to attract female mates.
- The dawn chorus is a specific activity that takes place during March-July, predominately male songbirds singing to attract their mates early in the morning before the focus on feeding.
- Why not listen to recordings of the dawn chorus as a class? Do any bird species dawn chorus sound similar to the ones that the class created?

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](http://ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)

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