



Birds

The shapes and colours of birds

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: l.tl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

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What should learners already know?

- Birds are an extremely diverse group of animals, with many different shapes, sizes and colours.

What equipment will I need?

- An egg carton or a box with several small compartments
- A large outdoor space

How will learners explore this?

1. Go out into your school grounds or another outdoor space and look for objects from nature that look like beaks, bird feet or have the same colour as any bird.

	Find two different things that look like bird feet.
Prompt examples	Find two different things that look like a bird's beak.
	Find two natural objects with colours that birds can have.

2. Children should collect everything they have found in an egg carton or another small box.
3. Now you have a nice collection of bird things. Encourage children to compare what they collected for each prompt between the class.

How can we show the learning?

- This activity is to help children think about the diversity of adaptations that birds have, and particularly how we as humans can represent bird features in art.
- Encourage the children to compare all the bird things they have collected. How many different objects were used to represent the beak? How many different objects were used to represent the feet?
- Use this as an opportunity to link bird learning to adaptation and environments:
 - Birds have different shapes on their beaks and feet depending on where they live and eat.
 - Ducks adapted for swimming have webbed feet, and a wide beak with which they can eat aquatic plants.
 - An eagle has gripping claws and a sharp crooked beak to catch prey.
 - Different species also have different colours on their feathers depending on where and how they build their nests.



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