



Birds

The starling game

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology and
Physical Education

Time: 1 hour



What should learners already know?

- Birds depend on external factors such as access to food, habitats and other individuals of the same species to survive.

What equipment will I need?

- A large open space

How will learners explore this?

1. Divide the group into two lines. There should be about 10 metres between the lines.
2. Let the children in the lines stand with their backs to each other. One line is starlings and the other line is external factors that starlings need. The external factors are food, water and protection.
3. Each external factor is symbolized by a sign: food – hand on stomach, water – hand on mouth, protection – hands over head.
4. All participants, whether they are starlings or external factors, decide a sign to show on a given signal. When the signal comes, everyone should turn around and the starlings run towards the external factors that stand still.
5. The starling must find a person who shows the same sign that the starling has chosen. If the starling manages to find a person with his needs, the person may follow over to the line of starlings. If the starling does not find its need, it dies and becomes an external factor in the next round and therefore ends up in the line with external factors.
6. Let the starlings search for their needs a couple of rounds and see what happens to the number of people in the different lines.

How can we show the learning?

- How many of the starlings could find enough external factors to survive? How many starlings could not access the external factors they needed?
- Ask children to talk about the three different categories of external factor which starlings need. Challenge children by asking them to think of some examples of each resource; where might starlings find sources of water? Where might starlings find protection?
- Extend this learning to your school grounds by asking children what features are in your school grounds or local area that can be used by starlings. What other features could you add to help support starling populations?



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

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