



Birds

What do birds need to survive?

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology

Time: 30 minutes



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

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What should learners already know?

- Birds are a very diverse group of animals, and can have many different shapes, colours, and sizes.
- Learners should be able to draw a simple bird.

What equipment will I need?

- Chalk of three different colours.
- An area of school ground which can be drawn on.
- Alternatively: A3 paper and colourful pens/pencils.

How will learners explore this?

1. Encourage children to work together to draw a number of bird murals in the centre of the area. These could be robins, blackbirds, or sparrows.
2. Challenge the class to think about what birds need to survive. Their answers can be put into three main categories: food, water, and shelter.
3. Get children to write out these categories around the area.
4. Encourage children to think of specific examples under each category, and write them out in the area, joining up words to create a mind map.
5. Remember to take a picture of your work!

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Did you know:
 Many of these factors are needed to support animal life; which ones do humans need?

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Did you know:
 Birds are found on every continent on Earth.

How can we show the learning?

- Encourage children to think about the needs of local birds. How can we help birds get what they need in our school grounds?
- What changes might be important to make to ensure that local bird populations can live in our school grounds?
- Which of these factors are universal to all animals, and which are specific to birds?
- See ideas for factors below:

Category	Specific example ideas
Food	Bird diets: Carnivore (meat-eating) Piscivore (fish-eating) Scavenger (eats dead animals) Insectivore (eats insects) Herbivore (plant-eating) Frugivore (fruit-eating) Granivore (grain-eating) Nectarivore (nectar-eating) Omnivore (eats plants and meat)
Water	Sources of water for birds: Rivers, lakes, ponds, sea, bird baths. Birds use water for: Drinking, bathing, hunting.
Shelter	Birds need shelter to: Hide from predators, avoid disease, shelter from bad weather, maintain temperature, raise young. Shelter can come from: Habitat, nest, camouflage, defense adaptations.



Co-funded by the European Union



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