



Birds

# Different birds in different habitats

Age: 7-14

Topic: Biology

Time: 1 hour



## What should learners already know?

- Evolution works via organisms adapting to their surrounding environment.

## What equipment will I need?

- Science topic books
- Pens and pencils
- Printed images of: a duck, a pelican, a penguin, an avocet, a kakapo, an ostrich, a condor, and a woodpecker. Include a few lines of information about each bird's habitat, where it lives, and what it eats.

## How will learners explore this?

1. Get children to sit in groups, and pass out one bird image to each group. Ask each child to draw the bird in the image in the centre of a page in their science topic books. Explain to children that animals adapt to their habitat through evolution.
2. Now, ask the groups to discuss how the bird they have drawn is adapted to how it lives.
3. Ask each child to label their drawings with the different adaptations the bird has. For example, is the bird camouflaged? If so, is this with colour or pattern or both? How is the beak adapted? How are the feet and legs adapted? How are the wings adapted? Does the overall body have any adaptations, e.g being very compact?
4. The bird images can be swapped from group to group, with each group completing the task for each bird. Alternatively, each group can stand at the front of the class and talk about the adaptations they have identified in the bird they drew.

## How can we show the learning?

- This exercise is a great way to explore evolution via natural selection with the class
- Animals which are the best adapted to their habitat will have the most offspring, so these adaptations will naturally become widespread in the population. This means that animals living in different habitats often look rather different to one another.
- Make sure to discuss with children how different each species of bird they have drawn looks. Encourage children to consider why this is.
- Questions could include: What is adaptation? Why is adapting to your habitat important? What kind of adaptations do we see in birds?

**?**  
**Did you know:**  
 There are over 10,000 species of birds, living on all 7 continents.

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