



Birds We Know

Pre-visit activity connection to Cave and Canopy Climber

Grade level/standards: **1st grade** NGSS 1-LS3-1, CCSS W.1.7, W.1.8; **2nd grade** NGSS 2-LS4-1, CCSS RI.2.10, W.2.7, W.2.8; **3rd grade** NGSS 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4, CCSS RI.3.9, W.3.7, W.3.8; **4th grade** NGSS 4-LS-1, CCSS RI.4.10, W.7, W.8, W.9; **6th grade** NGSS 6-LS1-4, 6-LS1-5, CCSS RI.6.10, W.6.7, W.6.8, W.6.9

Concepts: Birds' features, what they eat, where they live

Materials needed:

1. Books- K-1 "Birds" by Kevin Henkes; Grades 2-4 "It Could Still Be a Bird" by Allan Fowler; "What Makes a Bird Fly" by Mary Garelick
2. Chart paper
3. For K-1 Outline of various birds, fake feathers, construction paper, art supplies

Procedure:

1. Prepare a chart with the headings "What we know about birds" and "What we want to know about birds".
2. Use questions such as "What are their features?" "What do they eat?" "How do they fly?" "Where do they live?" etc. to guide the discussion. Write the answers generated on the chart paper in the appropriate column.
3. Read the appropriate level book to the students.
4. Guide the older students to do research using a variety of sources to learn more about birds.
5. For the younger students, give them the outline of the different birds and let them glue on the feathers, beak and feet. Talk about how the bottom side of the birds are usually lighter in color than the backs. Encourage them to brainstorm reasons why.
6. The younger students should write sentences about birds.
7. The older students could create bird cards with information about the birds that they have discovered.

What's Happening:

What makes a bird a bird? There are more than 9,000 different kinds of birds in the world. Each bird has different structures that serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction. Some birds are very colorful to attract mates, while others are drab, which helps protect or hide them. Some are very big, and others are very small. Birds' external physical features can enable them to carry out life's functions in their particular environments. For example, some birds have very long wings that help them soar through the air, while some cannot fly at all. The differences are endless, but there are a few adaptations or traits that all birds have in common. All birds have beaks, two legs, and feathers.

Book List:

1. Ten Little Eggs by Jean Marzollo
2. The Trumpet of the White Swan by E.B. White
3. Don't Let Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Williams
4. Backyard Birding for Kids by Fran Lee
5. Eagles by P.D.Eastman

Extension Activities:

1. Younger students could match picture of the same bird, egg, nest, etc. playing "Memory"
2. Older students could produce a video of birds.
3. Using the information that they have gathered, the students could write a story about a bird who didn't like to fly.