



Teacher's Notes: Birds Characteristics

Science Standard:

Learning Objectives:

The students will be able to match pictures with pictures

The students will be able to match pictures of the characteristics of birds with their written word.

The students will be able to write down the characteristics of birds using a word bank.

The students will be able to compare and contrast the characteristics of birds and people

Activities

1. Have students go outside and look for birds or bird nests. Have the students look for some of the bird characteristics. Have students take pictures of the birds with a phone or camera. In class, make a PowerPoint with the pictures of the birds that you were able to photograph. Write a sentence about some of the characteristics of birds under each picture.
2. Get a collection of nature magazines that feature wildlife. Have students look for pictures of birds or bird nests to cut out. Depending on group you could use the pictures for different things:
 - Everyone glues their picture on one big poster board.
 - Students make their own collage of birds
 - Students circle the beaks (or other characteristic)
 - Students write a sentence describing each characteristic.
3. Students do an image search for each characteristic of birds. Have the students save pictures of their favorite ones. Those are then inserted onto a Word document or a PowerPoint. Students write a sentence about each bird characteristic.
4. There are **3 presentations** for this book located in materials.

General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on should be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students. There is something for everyone.

Page 1: Characteristics are things that make one type of animal different than another. There are five characteristics that all birds have . **Point:** red bird, blue bird, feathers, beaks **WH Questions:** How many characteristics do all birds have? **Yes/No:** Do birds have five common characteristics? Do you have a

beak? Do people have beaks? **Opinions/Experiences:** Look at the picture in the book. What characteristics do all of these birds have? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 1, ask students, “How many characteristics do all birds have that are the same?” The answer is the main idea card “five.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 2: All birds have feathers. Different birds have different sized and different colored feathers. **Point:** feathers, brown feathers, white feathers, red feathers, yellow feathers, green feathers, blue feathers. **WH Questions:** What is one characteristic that all birds have? **Yes/No:** Do all birds have feathers? Do all birds have the same colored feathers? Do all birds have the same sized feathers? **Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever found a bird feather? How do feathers feel? What is your favorite color of bird feather? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 2, ask students, “What do all birds have?” The answer is the main idea card “feathers.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 3: All birds have wings. Most birds use their wings to fly. However, penguins cannot fly. They use their wings to swim. Show students the following slow motion video of birds flying. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1uY7_wdYOA Show the following video of penguins using their wings to swim. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9mbCNs47FI> **Point:** bird, wings **WH Questions:** What do all birds have? What helps a bird to fly? **Yes/No:** Do all birds have wings? Do all birds fly? **Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever watched a bird fly? Do you think it would be fun to be able to fly? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 3, ask students, “What do all birds have?” The answer is the main idea card “wings.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 4: Birds do not have teeth. Birds do not have mouths. All birds have beaks. Have the students view the following video of birds with different beaks. Freeze different portions of the video to have the students point to the beaks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qrrRwVGUCe> **Point:** bird, beak, fish **WH Questions:** What do all birds have? **Yes/No:** Do all birds have beaks? Do all bird beaks look the same? Are all bird beaks the same size? **Sharing Opinion/Experiences:** Do we have beaks? What do people have? What do you think birds use their beaks for? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 4, ask students, “What do all birds have?” The answer is the main idea card “beaks.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 5: Before human babies are born, they grow inside their mother. Baby birds do not grow inside their mothers. They grow inside eggs. All female birds lay eggs. The eggs hatch and the baby bird comes out of the egg. **Point:** white eggs, blue eggs, brown eggs, spotted eggs, biggest egg, smallest egg **WH Questions:** What do all birds lay? What do baby birds grow inside of? **Yes/No:** Do birds lay eggs? Do baby birds grow inside of eggs? Are all eggs the same color? Are all eggs the same size? **Sharing Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever seen a bird’s egg? People eat chicken eggs. Do you like to eat eggs? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 5, ask students, “What do all female bird lay?”

The answer is the main idea card “eggs.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 6: Boys are males. Girls are females. Male birds are more colorful than female birds. The job of the female birds are to lay eggs. The job of the female birds are to protect the nest where the eggs are.

Point: branch, red bird, brown bird **WH Questions:** What are boys called? What are girls called? Are males or females more colorful? Do male or female birds protect the nest? **Yes/No:** Are boys called males? Are girls called females? Are female birds more colorful? Are male birds more colorful? Do male birds protect the nest? **Opinion/Experiences:** ? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 6, ask students, “What are boys called? What are girls called?” The answer is the main idea card “males and females.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 7: An important job of the female bird is to build the nest. The nest is where the female bird lays her eggs. Bird birds make big nests. Little birds make little nests. Birds use their beaks to make the nests. **Point:** leaves, nest, eggs **WH Questions:** What do birds build? What is a nest? What do female birds lay? **Yes/No:** Do birds build nests? Are all nests the same size? Do female birds lay their eggs in the nests? **Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever seen a bird’s nest? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 7, ask students, “What do birds build?” The answer is the main idea card “nest.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 8: Baby birds grow inside the eggs. When baby birds are ready to be born, they hatch. Hatch means that they come out of the egg. The baby birds break the egg with their beaks. They come out of the egg. The baby birds live in the nests until they are old enough to live on their own. **Point:** bird, beak, twigs **WH Questions:** What is it called when a baby bird comes out of the egg? Where do baby birds live until they grown? **Yes/No:** Do baby birds grow inside their mother birds’ bodies? Do baby birds grow inside eggs? Do baby birds hatch? Does hatch mean that the baby bird comes out of the egg? Do baby birds live inside the nests? **Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever seen baby birds in a nest? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 8, ask students, “What is it called when a baby bird comes out of its egg?” The answer is the main idea card “hatch.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 9: Birds are vertebrates. That means that birds have bones and a skeleton. The skeleton of a bird is very light. A light skeleton helps the bird to fly. **Point:** bird, skeleton **WH Questions:** What are animals with a skeleton called? **Yes/No:** Do birds have a skeleton? Are birds vertebrates? Do people have a skeleton? Are people vertebrates? **Opinion/Experiences:** What do birds and people both have? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 9, ask students, “What are animals with a skeleton called?” The answer is the main idea card “vertebrates.” Students will find the main idea card and read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.