



Teacher's Notes: Birds Characteristics

Science Standard:

Strand 4: Concept 1: Characteristics of organisms (K, 1, 5)

Strand 4: Concept 3: Organisms and Environments (K, 1)

Strand 4 Concept 4: Diversity, Adaption, and Behavior (1, 8)

Learning Objectives:

The students will be able to match pictures with pictures

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

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

The students will be able to contrast ostriches with other birds.

Activities

1. Bring in a feather duster made of ostrich feathers. Have students use it or buy some ostrich feathers. Have the students feel them.
2. Make egg salad, scrambled eggs, etc.
3. Students do image searches. 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. **See Technology printable in the materials.**
4. Do an art activity that uses feathers. **See the ostrich coloring page in the materials.**
5. There is **one presentation** 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: Ostriches very tall. They are taller than you. Some ostriches are so tall that they could not walk through our classroom door. That is tall! An ostrich has a long neck. An ostrich has long legs. Show students the following video of an ostrich. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzlooT2mgRE> **Point:** legs, neck, feathers **WH Questions:** What is the tallest bird in the world? How tall can an ostrich be? **Yes/No:** Is an ostrich short? Is an ostrich tall? Are ostriches taller than you? **Opinions/Experiences:** Have you ever seen an ostrich? What would you do if you saw an ostrich? **Peer to Peer Interaction:**

After you read Page 1, ask students, “What is the tallest bird?” The answer is the main idea card “ostriches.” 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: Ostriches weigh more than you. They weigh more than most adults! **Point:** scale, man. **WH Questions: Yes/No:** Are ostriches heavy? Do you weigh more than an ostrich? Does an ostrich weigh more than you? **Opinion/Experiences:** People stand on a scale to see how much they weigh. People get weighed when they go to the doctor’s. Have you ever been weighed? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 2, ask students, “?” The answer is the main idea card “heavy.” 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, ostriches cannot fly. They are flightless. Flightless means that they cannot fly. Show students the following video of an ostrich using its wings when running. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r-b8uY7C9E> **Point:** ostrich, feathers, wings **WH Questions:** What is a word that means “cannot fly”? What bird is flightless? Why can’t ostriches fly? **Yes/No:** Do ostriches have wings? Can ostriches fly? Are ostriches flightless? **Opinion/Experiences:** Have you seen birds flying? Why do you think ostriches cannot fly? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 3, ask students, “What is another word for “cannot fly?” The answer is the main idea card “flightless.” 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: Ostriches are super fast runners. They can run faster than people. They can run as fast as a moving car. Show students the following music video of ostriches running. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu8JB3XX4OI> Ostriches have super strong legs. They can kick very hard. Ostriches kick to protect themselves from other animals. Show student the following video of an ostrich kicking. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VliqVVe2cQ> **Point:** ostrich, legs, neck **Questions:** How do ostriches move? What do ostriches do to protect themselves? **Yes/No:** Do ostriches run? Are ostriches slow? Are ostriches fast? Do ostriches kick? **Sharing Opinion/Experiences:** Ostriches will kick lions who are trying to attack them. What other animals do you think they might attack? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 4, ask students, “How do ostriches move?” The answer is the main idea card “walking and running.” 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: Vertebrates are animals that have a skeleton. The skeleton is the bones in your body. People have a skeleton. People are vertebrates. All birds are vertebrates. Ostriches are vertebrates. **Point:** ostrich skeleton **WH Questions:** What are ostriches? **Yes/No:** Do ostriches have a skeleton? Are ostriches vertebrates? **Sharing Opinion/Experiences:** Do you have a skeleton? Are you a vertebrate? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 5, ask students, “What are ostriches?” 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.

Page 6: All birds have feathers. Ostriches have very big feathers. **Point:** ostrich, feather, white feathers

WH Questions: What do ostriches have? What keeps ostriches cool? What keeps ostriches warm?

Yes/No: Do people have feathers? Do ostriches have feathers? **Opinion/Experiences:** Some people like to use ostrich feathers for decoration. People can dye the feathers different colors. Show students the video of different colored ostrich feathers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGnRdz05pxg> Do you think the ostrich feathers are pretty. Ostrich feathers are also used to make feather dusters. People use the feathers to dust furniture. Show students the video of ostrich feather dusters.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4s1-E8SttU> Show the students the following video of farmers pluming an ostrich. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdCPIKpNU4s> Do you think it is ok to use ostrich feathers for decorations? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 6, ask students, “What keeps ostriches warm?” 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 7: Ostrich nests look different than other nests. They are holes in the ground. The male ostrich is the one who digs the ground to make the nest. Show students the following video about an ostrich nesting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBRppKPXKuU>

Point: ostrich, ground, eggs **WH Questions:** Where do ostriches lay eggs? How do ostriches build their nests? **Yes/No:** Do ostriches have nests? Are ostrich nests on trees? Are ostrich nests dug into the ground? **Opinion/Experiences:** Have you ever seen an ostrich nest? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 7, ask students, “Where do ostriches lay eggs?” 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: All birds lay eggs. Ostrich eggs are huge! Ostrich eggs are bigger than any other bird eggs.

Ostrich eggs are equal to 2 dozen chicken eggs. Two dozen means 24 chicken eggs. Show student the following video of an ostrich hatching out of its egg. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8USfdAly7n0>

Point: hand, egg **WH Questions:** What do ostriches lay? **Yes/No:** Are ostrich eggs small? Are ostrich eggs big? **Opinion/Experiences:** Do you like to eat eggs? Would you like to eat an ostrich egg? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 8, ask students, “What do ostriches 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 9: All birds use their beaks to eat. Ostriches use their beaks to eat plants and small animals.

Ostriches like to eat leaves, grass and flowers. They also like to eat mice and lizards. Show the following video of an ostrich eating. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLlu0eA-GlQ> **Point:** ostrich, eyes, beak

WH Questions: What do ostriches use to eat? What do ostriches eat? **Yes/No:** Do ostriches have mouths? Do ostriches have beaks? Do ostriches? **Opinion/Experiences:** Ostriches use their beaks to eat. What do we use to eat? Ostriches like to eat plants. Vegetables are plants. Do you like to eat vegetables? What is your favorite vegetable? **Peer to Peer Interaction:** After you read Page 9, ask students, “What do ostriches use to eat?” 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.