

LIFE SCIENCE

2nd GRADE

BIRDS AND BUILDING

RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

Ornithology is the scientific term for bird-watching and researching. Humans have been fascinated by the birds that have lived in the area since ancient times. The cave maps and ruins all show observations and human interest in domestic birds. Researching birds, their bio-learning, habitat and evolution, and numerous other aspects have been a long tradition in this field.

GEORGIA STATE STANDARD

S2L1. a. Ask questions to determine the sequence of the life cycle of common animals in your area: a mammal such as a cat, dog or classroom pet, a bird such as a chicken, an amphibian such as a frog, and an insect such as a butterfly.

GSE Second Grade Curriculum Map Stability and Change in Plants and Animals: Changes in habitat and its effect on plants and animals

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE STANDARD

2.S.1: The student will use the science and engineering practices, including the processes and skills of scientific inquiry, to develop understandings of science content

2.S.1A.1 Ask and answer questions about the natural world using explorations, observations, or structured investigations

TAKEAWAYS FOR STUDENTS

- Habitats of birds in our region
- Practice observation skills in identifying birds in an indoor and outdoor setting.
- Building a birdfeeder to attract native birds to their homes

ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS

1. While hiking on the Nature and Adventure Center Trail, students will use the “Bird Habitat” sheet to note observations about any signs of birds living in the area/ text or drawings (scat, nests, marks on trees, holes in the ground, holes in leaves/trees)
2. Observe wildlife from a distance. Observe what you saw and discuss.
3. Use what was learned from the bird presentation and listening to bird songs to identify native birds in nature
4. Pretend to be prey when looking for birds on hike. (worms, snakes, mice, bugs)

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bird Bingo game with cards for bird presentation (\$14.99 ON Amazon)
- Wood Birdfeeder Kit #48/9500 (Oriental Trading) \$2.50 each
- Binoculars

- Flap Your Wings Together from Super Simple Songs
- “Head, Beak, Wings and Feet” song sheet
- Hammers per pair of kids
- Markers to decorate birdfeeders
- Laptop and screen to show “Flap Your Wings Together” song

PRIOR TO EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION

Ask students to start noticing and observing birds that fly around their yards, neighborhoods to build up prior knowledge

OPENING

Recite the Outdoor Code. Note that students will focus on being considerate in the outdoors.

TALK TIME

- Introduce the adventure and build interest by describing the goals of the adventure and some of the activities that are planned.
- Explain that stretches prepare students physically for hikes and other physical activities. Remind everyone in the class of the rules of safe hiking.
- Explain that this adventure will require everyone to stay alert to signs of birds. Ask students what they can do to help others see the birds. Ideas might be to remain quiet and listen, and to share with others in the class through hand signals when someone sees something.
- Discuss what students will do on the hike to demonstrate the specified principles of the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace.

EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS WORKSHOP

Using binoculars

- Teach students how to adjust the two halves to match the distance between their eyes.
- If a student wears glasses, they should be kept on while using binoculars.

Safety

- Teach students to stay in their groups and never walk while looking through the binoculars. This is to avoid walking into holes, bumping into trees, or falling into streams.
- Tell the students to wear the binocular strap around their necks – they should not carry the binoculars or set them down. This will help prevent dropping the binoculars into a pond, for example, or accidentally leaving them behind.
- Demonstrate the use of a hammer so they don’t smash their fingers.

Practice

- Students should first look at the object they want to view without using binoculars.
- Then, they should raise the binoculars, slowly up to their eyes.
- Once they’ve found the object again, they can focus the lens.
- While in the outdoors, see if the students can hear the bird first and then try to find it with the binoculars.

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Identify local birds and discuss markings of their presence in our area

In the classroom, show students cards with the 16 local birds and give them pointers for identification. Pass them around the room. Talk about bird habitats, signs birds were in an area (scat, scratch marks, nests, holes from woodpeckers, holes in leaves, trees, ground)

Reflection: Ask if they have seen any of the birds or heard their singing in their yards, neighborhoods

Activity 2: Play Bird Bingo game in groups to help them remember the local birds.

Reflection: Students should be able to identify at least 2 local birds

Activity 3: Show “Flap Your Wings Together” on laptop YouTube Flap Your Wings Together/Kids Song from Super Simple Songs and do dance movements with the video (Make sure they have enough room)

Reflection: Moving around is good to engage the students and have fun while thinking about the birds’ behavior.

Activity 4: Ask them about the life cycle of a robin, and have them fill in the sheet with the 4 stages of development and they fill in the stages on the sheet

Activity 5: Go on the hike and have students look for birds from the game and see if they can identify them. Have them use the sign language for “bird” so they can remain quiet and not scare the birds off. At some point in the hike, have them pretend they are prey for birds, and have them act out what they would do if they saw a bird coming. (For example, a worm would want to hide under a rock). Have each pair use the magnifying glass to look for signs of birds in the area and have them sketch what they are observing on “Bird Habitat” sheet.

Reflection: Gather them in a circle outside and have them present their observation sketches at the end of the hike

Activity #5: Have them build and decorate the birdfeeders to take home. Give them each a small baggie of birdseed to put in it once they get home so they can observe the birds outside of their homes.

Reflection: Which birds do you think your birdfeeder will attract?

SONG TIME

Sing while pointing to the parts of the “bird” to the tune of Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes

Head, Beak, Wings & Feet

Head and beak, wings and feet

Eyes and tail And hollow bones

Wings and feet

Head and beak, wings and feet

Head and beak, wings and feet

Wings and feet

Wings and feet

SKETCHES OF BIRD OBSERVATIONS
ON HIKING TRAIL

*Life Cycle of a robin sheet is on another document.