

Family Guide to Project PigeonWatch

Before you get started with Project PigeonWatch

Look for pigeons

Walk around your neighborhood or look for them when you are walking to your bus, subway, school, or store.

- Can you find any pigeons?
- Where do you usually see pigeons?



Tim Gallagher

Talk about pigeons with your family

- Does anyone in your family see pigeons on the way to work or school?
- What do people in your family notice about the pigeons they see?

Talk about scientists with your family

- Does anyone know a scientist?
- What does a scientist do?
- What does a scientist look like?
- Where would you go to meet a scientist?



Margaret Barker

If you write down your answers you can look at them later to see if you have changed how you think about pigeons and science. You might keep a family journal that everyone can write and draw in. If you have pigeons outside your window, keep the journal near the window so that it is handy when you observe your pigeons.

Some things your family can do

Be a reporter! (Before, during, or after PigeonWatching)

Choose one family member to be a reporter. Have the reporter ask each family member one (or more) of the following questions. The reporter can write down everyone's answers (or use a tape or video recorder). Then read (or play back) the answers.

- Questions for the reporter to ask:
 - What do you think of pigeons?
 - What do you already know about pigeons?
 - What do pigeons look like?

(continued)

Be an author!

You can send your reports, photographs, tapes, drawings, and so forth to Project PigeonWatch—we may publish them in *Pigeonscope* or on our web site!

- More questions for the reporter to ask:
 - ☑ What colors are pigeons?
 - ☑ What do pigeons sound like?
 - ☑ How do pigeons move?
 - ☑ What do pigeons eat?
 - ☑ Where do you find pigeons in your neighborhood?

Make a list of the answers to these questions or write the answers in your journal.

- The reporter can also
 - make a list of questions that you and your family have about pigeons.
 - keep a journal of the answers and update the information each time you conduct Pigeon-Watch.
 - write a news article about your family's answers to the questions about pigeons. Or, if you taped the answers, create a radio or television program from the tapes.
 - create a comic strip by drawing each family member and having them "say" what they think about pigeons.

Be a detective! (After you have found a pigeon flock)

Your family can become a group of detectives that solves mysteries about pigeons. Just like PigeonWatch scientists, you can unravel pigeon puzzles. Observe your flock and think about pigeons.

- Watch the pigeons and follow them or conduct a test (for example: if you want to know what pigeons like to eat, test by offering them different types of food).
 - Look at or check out a book about birds or about pigeons (see the Pigeon Reference Guide's References and Additional Reading section or ask your librarian).
 - At a museum or nature center in your city, look for birds that are on display and read the signs that go with the displays.
 - On the Internet, use the PigeonWatch web site and other sites linked from that site to do a search for information using your browser's search function (use specific words in your search).
 - Solve the puzzles and games on the PigeonWatch web site.
 - Other ideas:
 - Write a detective story or comic strip about how you answered your question.
 - Create your own puzzles or games that your family can work on together.
 - Choose at least one unique pigeon from your flock to draw or photograph, so that you can find it again when you return to observe the flock. (Young children can color the pigeon on a copy of the coloring page.)
 - Observe your pigeons and write a story or comic strip about their behaviors or their daily "schedules" as part of the story.
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