

## Set Up the Expedition

### Materials:

#### For the activity leader:

- (1) bird poster
- (1) large bird feather
- CD Player
- APEX Science CD: Bird Calls

#### For each group:

- *It's All About Birds* Learning Cards
- (1) bottle of glue
- (1) box of crayons
- strips of construction paper
- various types of art/craft supplies

#### For each child:

- (1) *It's All About Birds* Data Collection Sheet
- (1) paper plate
- (1) pair of scissors
- (1) sheet of drawing paper

#### Prepare the demonstration:

1. Prepare the CD player that will be used to play the bird calls found on the APEX Science CD. Be sure to check the sound levels, and be sure the CD works.
2. Place the bird poster where all children can see.
3. Be sure to have the large feather ready to pass around the room.

#### Prepare the exploration:

1. Place each type of art/craft supply in a box or bin.
2. Place numbered labels on each container of supplies to identify how many of each item children may take.
3. Line up the materials along a supply table.
4. Distribute the glue, crayons, scissors and drawing paper to each group.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT BIRDS

### Activity Leader's Guide

**Group Size:** 4-6 children

**Time:** 45 minutes

## Engage

- 1** Gather the children together. Play the audio recording of birdcalls and songs included on the APEX Science CD.

#### Ask:

***"What did you hear?"*** Allow children time to contribute their ideas.

#### Say:

***"That's right. The sounds you heard are the sounds birds make."***

#### Ask:

***"Birds can make many different sounds. How can we tell that they are all birds even though they sound so different? What do they have in common?"*** Birds have feathers, beaks, wings, and two legs.

- 2**

#### Say:

***"This poster shows different kinds of birds. Similar kinds of birds belong to the same group, or species."*** Use the bird poster to point to the beak, body, wings and feathers of some of the birds as each part is mentioned by the children.

#### Ask the following questions:

***"Why does a bird need a beak?"*** Some birds, like the hummingbird, use their beak to drink the nectar from flowers, while birds like the owl use their beak to tear meat.

***"Why does a bird need wings?"*** Penguins use their wings to steer through the water, while other birds use wings to fly.

# IT'S ALL ABOUT BIRDS

## Activity Leader's Guide

***“Why does a bird need feathers?”*** Pass around a feather for children to touch. Birds use their feathers to fly. They can also help the bird hide or even to attract the attention of other birds.

***“What do birds use their legs for?”*** Birds that do not fly use their legs for running. Birds of prey use their claws to grab the animals they hunt. Water birds use them for moving through the water.

## Explore

- 3 If you are working with more than 4-6 children, divide the children into groups. Distribute the Data Collection Sheets and the Learning Cards.

**Say:**

***“Now that you are familiar with the body parts of a bird, follow the directions on the Learning Card to create your own bird species using the supplies provided.”***

- 4 Ask the children to line up at the supply table. Monitor the process to be sure that each child takes only the amount of materials indicated by the label. The paper plate may be used as a tray to carry the supplies back to the work area.
- 5 Allow children enough time to complete the WONDER, EXPLORE, RECORD, and CONCLUDE sections of their Learning Card.

## Conclude

- 6 Gather the children together to complete the Learning Card. Ask the following questions:

***“What can your bird do?”*** Children should describe skills the bird has due to the type of beak, body and feet it has.

***“What kind of habitat is your bird best suited to live in?”*** For example, birds with webbed feet are good swimmers, so they spend most of their time paddling through lakes, rivers or oceans.

## Expand

- 7 **Ask:**  
***“Now that you know where your bird lives, how can you tell other people how to help keep your bird from becoming extinct?”*** Explain that an extinct species no longer exists. They have all died out.

In the EXPAND activity, children will draw posters that inform others how to keep their bird from becoming extinct.

Encourage children to make a short presentation using their poster.

- 8 **Say:**  
***“Congratulations! You have earned your ‘Ask Me About Birds’ stamp. You are ready to tell people about birds.”***