



Community Science

Bird

Lesson 2: How to identify a species

Duration: 50 mins - 1 hour

Location: Indoors

Overview

In this lesson students will:

Explore what makes birds special and learn different ways to identify birds. Students will be introduced to field guides and participate in activities to challenge their observation and identification skills using biofacts and technology.

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Learning objectives

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Understand characteristics used to identify birds (shape, field markings, size, habitat, sounds, behaviours)
- Understand the purpose of field guides and practice utilizing them to identify birds and other animals
- Use QR codes and iPads to obtain information about biofacts

Curriculum links

Grade: 3

Subject and Unit: Science, Animal Life Cycles

- Classify a variety of animals, based on observable characteristics, e.g., limbs, teeth, body covering, overall shape, backbone
- Observe and describe the growth and development of at least one living animal, as the animal develops from early to more advanced stages.
- Identify the food needs of at least one animal from each of the following groups: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects; and describe changes in how each animal obtains food through different stages of its life.
- Recognize adaptations of a young animal to its environment, and identify changes in its relationship to its environment as it goes through life; e.g., tadpoles are adapted for life in an aquatic environment; adult frogs show adaptations to both terrestrial and aquatic environments;



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Equipment required

- PowerPoint called "Lesson 2 how to id a species (grade 3 birds)"
- Biofact QR Code Activity instructions
- 7 iPads/tablets
- 7-9 Biofacts and QR codes
- 7 digital microscopes
- Laminated student observation sheets
- Erasable markers
- Computer with Wi-Fi
- Projector



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Lesson plan

| Time | Activity | Equipment needed |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 3-5 mins | How are birds special? (slide 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ask students what they believe a bird is- Go through the slide notes as a guide | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer with Wi-Fi• Projector |
| 3-5 mins | What are ways we can identify birds? (slides 3-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify the different ways we identify birds- Play sound clip on slide 4- Go through the slide notes as a guide | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer with Wi-Fi• Projector |
| 5-10 mins | Bird ID Card Sorting Activity (slide 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use the slide as a guide for the activity- Students will be grouped, and each group will receive 15 cards. The task will be to group the bird cards based on similarities they see in: size, shape (head, wing, beak, etc.), field markings, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer with Wi-Fi• Projector• Bird ID cards |
| 3 mins (without activity) | What do we use to identify birds? (slide 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduce field guides- Go through the slide notes as a guide- <i>Option activity:</i> challenge students to find Canada Goose in the field guide provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer with Wi-Fi• Projector• Field Guides (if doing optional activity) |
| 30-40 mins | Biofact Blitz Activity (slides 7-9) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review slide 7 for the biofact rules- Set up classroom for activity and review slide 8 for the activity instructions for the students (refer to the Biofact Blitz Activity Instructions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer with Wi-Fi• Projector• Field guides (at least one per station)• 7 iPads/tablets (one per station) |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allow each group to see at least a few biofacts and fill out the observation sheets for them- End the session with the Biofact Blitz Debrief on slide 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital microscopes (refer to Biofact Blitz Activity Instructions for instructions of use)• 7 biofacts (one per station)• 7 laminated observation worksheets (one per station) |
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