



# 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 ways to identify them. Learn the differences between deciduous and coniferous trees and leaf shapes. 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)
- Specify differences between coniferous and deciduous trees
- Identify different leaf shapes
- 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: 6

Subject and Unit: Science, Trees and Forests

- Identify reasons why trees and forests are valued. Students meeting this expectation should be aware that forests serve as habitat for a variety of living things and are important to human needs for recreation, for raw materials and for a life-supporting environment;
- Identify general characteristics that distinguish trees from other plants, and characteristics that distinguish deciduous from coniferous trees;
- Describe and classify leaf shapes, leaf arrangements, branching patterns and the overall form of a tree.



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#### Equipment required

- PowerPoint called "Lesson 2 how to id a species (grade 6 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 mins	How are birds special? (slide 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ask students what they believe a bird is</li><li>- Go through the slide notes as a guide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer with Wi-Fi</li><li>• Projector</li></ul>
3-5 mins	What are ways we can identify birds? (slides 3-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review the different ways we identify birds</li><li>- Play sound clip on slide 4</li><li>- Go through the slide notes as a guide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer with Wi-Fi</li><li>• Projector</li></ul>
5 mins	Where do birds find habitat? Identifying Trees (slide 5-8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduce deciduous and coniferous trees: identify differences between the types</li><li>- Leaf shapes</li><li>- Challenge for students: Think Like a Conservation Scientist – students will be challenged to identify the images of trees and leaves based on what they've learned</li><li>- Go through the slide notes as a guide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer with Wi-Fi</li><li>• Projector</li><li>• Bird ID cards</li></ul>
3 mins	What do we use to identify birds and trees? (slide 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduce field guides</li><li>- Go through the slide notes as a guide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer with Wi-Fi</li><li>• Projector</li><li>• Field Guides</li></ul>
30-40 mins	Biofact Blitz Activity (slides 10-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review slide 10 for the biofact rules</li><li>- Set up classroom for activity and review slide 11 for the activity instructions for the students (refer to the Biofact Blitz Activity Instructions)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer with Wi-Fi</li><li>• Projector</li><li>• Field guides (at least one per station)</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Allow each group to see at least a few biofacts and fill out the observation sheets for them</li><li>- End the session with the Biofact Blitz Debrief on slide 12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 iPads/tablets (one per station)</li><li>• 7 biofacts (one per station)</li><li>• Digital microscopes (refer to Biofact Blitz Activity Instructions for instructions of use)</li><li>• 7 laminated observation worksheets (one per station)</li></ul>
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