



Food Gatherers

LESSON PLAN

What Can Be Learned?

All animals depend on their physical features to help them survive. The physical features of a bird can help it to obtain food, keep safe, or build homes. These physical features are the bird's adaptations. For example, the shape of a bird's beak is a physical adaptation which helps it find food.

In this activity students gain an understanding of how birds have adapted to their wetland habitat. This activity is taken from Environmental Games, Gould League, with permission.

Materials Required

Twigs, bark, dried grasses and other natural materials students find for "nests",

Gum nuts, leaves, and other "foods",

Utensils to make "beaks" from. Ideally these are tools that reflect the characteristics of bird beaks, such as knitting needles, crochet hooks, various shaped spoons, and chopsticks.

The Activity

Tape a "beak" to each player's thumb and forefinger (spoons, pencils, knitting needles, chopsticks, anything to imitate the shape and variety of bird beaks.)

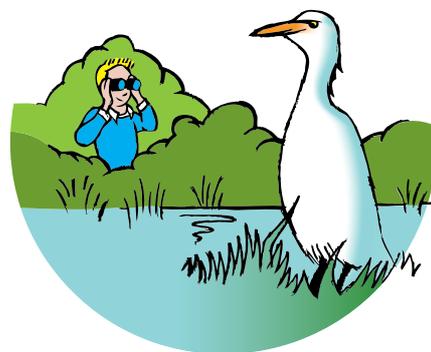
Have an area of "nest" material and a separate area for "food."

Form teams of two to three birds - a family.

Each family will need to build a nest and provide food for their young using only their beaks. It is up to the family to decide who is completing which roles.

If you wish to increase the difficulty of this exercise, you can set time limits and targets that the birds must reach. These could be based on the weening of young, migration etc.

The shape of a bird's beak, feathers, the number of 'fingers', colour of the feathers, length of legs, patterns on the body, placement of eyes, are all examples of physical adaptations which help different birds to survive. Discuss other adaptations that wetland birds display.



Wetlands E-Set - Lesson Plan

E-Sets are an Electronic Environmental and Educational set of notes for teachers

FURTHER INFORMATION

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