



Raptor Identification

Lesson plan



Photo: Peter Tonelli

What Can Be Learned?

In this art activity students learn that specific Birds of Prey can be identified by their sizes and shapes. Students also begin to explore the physical and behavioral characteristics of some raptor species.

Materials Required

Bird identification field guides A photocopying machine
Blank transparencies Scissors An overhead projector
Black construction paper White chalk Large index cards

The Activity

Tell students that they are going to create a bird-identification challenge game for their classmates.

Explain that each student will work with a partner to select a bird of prey from a field guide, create a silhouette of the bird, and challenge classmates to identify it.

Encourage students to select Tasmanian raptors from the area you are to visit.

Students, working in pairs, use a field guide. Ask them to choose a raptor and write the common name of the bird on the blackboard. If more than one pair choose the same bird, ask students to select alternatives so that each pair has a different bird.

Using the field guides for information, students write on the index cards the common name of their bird and a description of their bird's physical and behavioral characteristics. Is it nocturnal or diurnal?

Trace from the field guide each bird that students have chosen onto a transparency.

Each pair of students use an overhead projector to project a life-size image of their bird onto black construction paper and trace the outline of the bird with chalk.

Students cut out their bird outlines and attach the index cards to the backs of the outlines, where they cannot be seen. Have students try their skill at matching each silhouette with its common name - listed on the blackboard.

Keep these silhouette cards for the 'Exploring a Wetland' or National Park walk at the site your class is visiting.



Raptor E-Set - Lesson Plan

E-Sets are an Electronic Environmental and Educational set of notes for teachers. Raptor E-Set suited to upper primary students.