

Christie Wyman

Seasonal School Bird Habitat Study (for areas with significant seasonal weather changes) 75 min

Objective:

Students will

- become familiar with the birds that make their home in their yard or school grounds.
- demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs of animals and plants (e.g., the need for food, air and water).
- investigate the characteristics and needs of animals and plants.
- demonstrate awareness that animals and plants depend on their environment to meet their basic needs.

Big Idea:

- Animals need food, water, shelter, and space to survive.
- Habitat is the physical area where an animal lives.
- Changes in animal habitat will impact animal life.

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 15 min

1. Soft start: Read [Every Day Birds](#) by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater.
2. Brainstorm who home/school "everyday birds" are.
3. Make list of what animals need to survive -- food, water, shelter, space.



Resources

- http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/90/373/Screen_Shot_2017-11-24_at_5.29.36_PM.png

2. Investigation and New Learning 30 min

1. Explore school property looking for signs of bird life in small teams or whole group.
2. Record names of birds, if known, or take photos for identification.
3. Record description of locations found, noting any evidence of sources of food and water, signs of shelter, and space.

Resources

- School Grounds Bird Data Sample Spreadsheet <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eUZdyPSq4MRLqH913kZOP5ktBGOeEshZ7YrCTPS9tIw/edit?usp=sharing>

3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

1. Share information recorded regarding signs of bird life, types of birds, sources of food and water, signs of shelter, and space.
2. If necessary, use photographic evidence to identify bird species. Use Cornell University's online [All About Birds Bird Guide](#) to identify unknown species.

Note: Continue to monitor bird life on a regular basis throughout fall, winter, and spring, noting changes in both bird life and habitat. If no regular bird activity, consider adding elements of a bird habitat to school grounds -- water, source of food, shelter, etc...