

Bird Discovery Kit

Bird Anatomy and Lifestyle Teacher Loan Kit

Purpose: To show how birds have adapted to their environment and how those adaptations are reflected in their anatomy.

Age Group:

Primary grades, 1-6

Materials:

Nests

Birds use different nesting strategies that

1. Protect their young
2. Use available resources
3. Accommodate their anatomy

Examples:

- A) Orioles hang their nests from the end of branches away from hungry predators.
- B) Hummingbirds use spider webs to hold their nests together and barn swallows frequently use horsehair in their constructions.
- C) Eagle - Ayres are huge nests that can support their weight.

Eggs

Eggs reflect the life style

- Large ground dwelling birds
Pen Hen and Guinea Hen
- Eggs laid on the ground

Feet

Sandhill Crane

- Large stilt like legs- live near water

Turkey

- Large ground dwelling bird. Feet large and legs short.

Wings

Pheasant

- Short wings for short power flight

Sandhill Crane

Long wings for long migrations

Sparrow

Multi-purpose wings- good for short migrations and power

Skulls/Beaks

Sandhill Crane

- Beak used for reaching small rodents, frogs and insects and grain. They swallow their food whole so the beak does not need to be hooked
House Sparrow
- Beak best for opening small seeds
Parrot
- Powerful beak for opening large hard seeds
Barn Owl Skull

- Hooked beak for catching and tearing up rodents
Burrowing Owl
- Hooked beak for catching and tearing up insects

Activities

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