

BIRD Theme Teacher's Guide

~Peachtree's Bird Books~

THEMES

- Habitats
- Physical characteristics
- Classification (similarities & differences of birds)
- Function & interaction in environments
- Food chain
- Life cycles
- Survival functions
- Nature
- Animals
- Animal behavior

***NOTE TO TEACHERS:** Most activities in this guide can be adapted to fit any book.

NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS

LANGUAGE ARTS (K – 12)

[English Language Arts Standards provided by the NCTE.]

NL-ENG.K-12.1 READING FOR PERSPECTIVE

Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the US and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.

NL-ENG.K-12.8 DEVELOPING RESEARCH SKILLS

Use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

SCIENCE (K – 4)

[National Science Education Standards provided by the National Academies of Science.]

NS.K-4.3 LIFE SCIENCE

Develop an understanding of organisms, their characteristics, environments, and life cycles.

MATH (K - 12)

[National Mathematics Standards provided by the NCTM.]

NM-PROB.PK-12.3

Apply and adapt a variety of appropriate strategies to solve problems.

TECHNOLOGY (K - 12)

[National Technology Standards provided by the International Society for Technology in Education.]

NT.K-12.5 TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH TOOLS

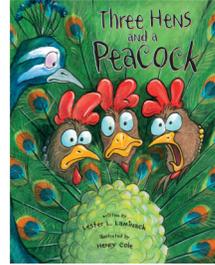
Use technology to locate, evaluate and collect information from a variety of sources.

Use technology tools to process data and report results.

Evaluate and select new information resources and technological innovations based on the appropriateness for specific tasks.

ABOUT THE BOOKS

Three Hens and a Peacock by Lester L. Laminack
(Release Date: Spring 2011)



HC | \$15.95

ISBN: 978-1-56145-564-5

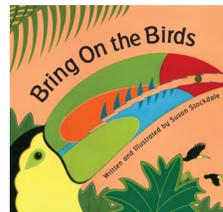
Ages 4-8 | Fiction

Book Level Score:

Fountas & Pinnell | Level: J | Grade Level: 2

Laminack and Cole's hilarious book reveals what happens when some foolish farm animals decide to trade roles-and discover just how hard it is to do someone else's job.

Bring On the Birds by Susan Stockdale
(Release Date: Spring 2011)



HC | \$15.95

ISBN: 978-1-56145-560-7

Ages 2-6 | Nonfiction | Nature

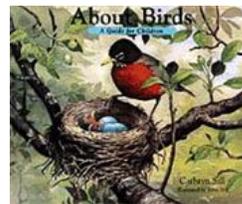
Book Level Scores:

Fountas & Pinnell | Level: D | Grade Level: 1

Brightly colored, richly textured illustrations, and an energetic rhyming text introduce young readers to distinctive birds and their unique qualities.

***All of the "About" books are also included in an ABOUT...series Teacher's Guide.**

About Birds: A Guide for Children



HC | \$15.95

ISBN: 978-1-56145-028-2

PB | \$7.95

ISBN: 978-1-56145-147-0

Ages 3-8 | Nonfiction | Nature

Book Level Scores:

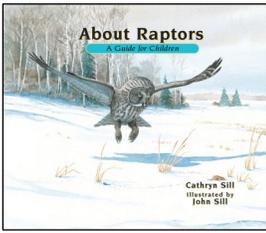
Fountas & Pinnell | Level: I | Grade Level: 1

A first, thoughtful glimpse into the world of birds, from eggs to nests, from song to flight.

"Exceptionally detailed and uniformly accurate... The Sills succeed admirably." —*School Library Journal* (starred review)

 A Scholastic Book Club selection

About Raptors: A Guide for Children



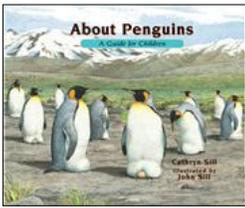
HC | \$16.95
ISBN: 978-1-56145-536-2
Ages 3-8 | Nonfiction | Nature

Book Level Scores
Fountas & Pinnell | Level: I | Grade Level: 1-2

This first glimpse into the natural world of raptors introduces readers to birds of prey.

“With a clear, simple text and handsome, sometimes dramatic paintings of birds in different habitats, this is a fine introduction.” **–Booklist**

About Penguins: A Guide for Children



HC | \$15.95
ISBN: 978-1-56145-488-4
Ages 3-8 | Nonfiction | Nature

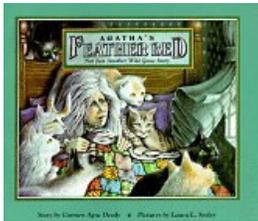
Book Level Scores
Fountas & Pinnell | Level: I | Grade Level: 1-2

This first glimpse into the natural world of penguins introduces readers to all seventeen varieties of penguins.

“With its simple text and lovely watercolors, About Penguins will appeal to a wide audience.” **–Booklist**

***This book also has a Teacher’s Guide.**

Agatha’s Feather Bed: *Not Just Another Wild Goose Story*



HC | \$15.95
ISBN: 978-1-56145-008-4

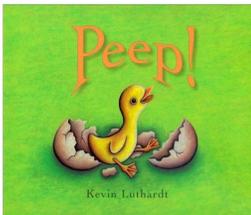
PB | \$7.95
ISBN: 978-1-56145-096-1
Ages 4-8 | Fiction

Book Level Scores:

Accelerated Reader | Level 3.5 | Quiz #: 19963
Reading Counts | Reading Level: 3.1 | Points: 2
Fountas & Pinnell | Level: O | Grade Level: 3-4

Agatha loves her new feather bed, but when six shivering, naked geese pay her a visit to discuss the origin of the feathers, is her goose cooked?

Peep!



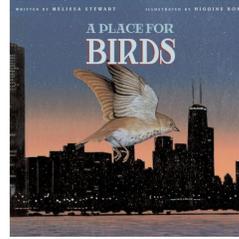
HC | \$15.95
ISBN: 978-1-56145-046-6
Ages 2-6 | Fiction

Book Level Scores:
Fountas & Pinnell | Level: E | Grade Level: 1

PEEP! A baby duck breaks through its shell and immediately attaches itself to the first thing it sees—a warmhearted young boy.

***This book also has a Teacher’s Guide.**

A Place for Birds



HC | \$16.95
ISBN: 978-1-56145-474-7
Ages 6-10 | Nonfiction | Nature

Book Level Scores
Accelerated Reader | Level 5.2 | Quiz #: 130591
Reading Counts | Reading Level: 6.6 | Points: 2
Fountas & Pinnell | Level: N | Grade Level: 3

This fact-filled, colorful look at the amazing world of birds includes a call to action to protect these beautiful creatures.

BEFORE YOU READ

1. Discuss with students what they know about birds. List on a chart several activities that can be done with birds.
2. Have students listen for new words in the book(s) that can be used to create a vocabulary list for later discussion.
3. Talk about what birds provide for people and ask why birds are important.
4. Identify birds that students have seen in their neighborhoods. Ask students to take note of familiar birds as they listen to the books.

AS YOU READ

1. Ask readers (or listeners) to think about questions they would like to ask after the book has been read.
2. Ask students know to take note of anything in the illustrations they would like to discuss later.
3. Have students take note of unfamiliar terms or words as they read or listen to the text.

AFTER YOU READ

1. Discuss the book and answer any questions that arise.
2. Ask students to name any unfamiliar words from the book(s) and help them create a vocabulary list to learn.
3. Take students on a nature walk and ask them to look for birds. Have them jot down notes on paper from their observation. They can also write down additional questions for later discussion. Allow students to talk about their questions when they return to the classroom.
4. Have students research the importance of protecting birds and their habitats, and conduct a class discussion on their findings.

Classroom Activities

LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing about Birds:

- Ask students to choose a bird mentioned in the book, look up information about that bird, and write down fun facts about it. They may also draw a picture of the bird in its natural habitat.
- Have students make a list of different types of birds they have seen in their neighborhood, in books and magazines, or on TV. Ask them to choose one type of bird and write a report on that bird. Report can include a picture or drawing of the bird, a poem or song about the bird, or a story featuring the bird.
- Discuss how birds are important. Have students write short essays about some of the ways that birds help our planet.

Working with Idioms:

Define the word idioms (a word, phrase, or expression that cannot be taken literally. In other words, when used in everyday language, an idiom has a meaning other than the basic definition found in the dictionary.) For example, “Birds of a feather flock together.” Look online for several idioms/sayings related to birds and have a class discussion about what they could mean. To find several examples of bird-related idioms, visit the following website.

www.idiomconnection.com/birds.html

Identifying Adjectives, Verbs and Nouns:

Using a chart of bird words generated by students in your classroom, have students sort the words and identify them as verbs, nouns or adjectives.

Letter Writing:

Identify the parts of a business letter and show students the correct way to write the letter. Have students write letters to your state government officials urging them to help protect wildlife in your state.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography:

Provide a blank map of the United States for each student. Help them research and identify your state’s official bird (for example, the state of Georgia is the brown thrasher) and learn why this bird was chosen. Ask students to select another state and color it in on the map. Next have them identify that state’s bird and research facts about the bird and the state. Students may also either draw pictures of the bird or find photos online. Have them create a poster of their findings. Allow them to share with the class.

Compare and Contrast Characteristics:

Identify several characteristics (habitat, size, eating or nesting habits, coloration, etc.) of different birds then compare and contrast two different types of birds. Examples: penguin vs. eagle, peacock vs. chicken, ostrich vs. hummingbird, etc.

Listing Birds by Location:

List birds you would see on a farm, near the ocean, at the lake, around your school. Discuss why you would see specific birds in various locations.

MATH

Bar Graphs:

Have students research five different kinds of birds to find the following information about each: wing span, egg sizes, and life spans. Have students create a bar graph using different colors to represent the information collected.

SCIENCE

Learning the parts of a bird:

Have student label the parts of a bird using the labeling page diagram from this website:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/birds/label/extanatomy/index.shtml>

Creating a Venn Diagram:

What is the difference between a raptor (bird of prey) and other types of birds? Create a Venn Diagram with the class to show the similarities and differences. Lead a class discussion about the findings.

Observation Study – Pinecone Bird Feeder:

Create three or four bird feeders using a piece of yarn and a pinecone. Tie the yarn tightly around one end of the pinecone. Next, coat the cone in peanut butter and then roll in birdseed or bird food. Hang the feeders outside your classroom window and for one week have students observe any changes to the cones. Have them create a weekly journal noting their observations. You can also allow students to create a bird feeder to take home and observe.

Endangered and Extinct:

Define the words “extinct” and “endangered.” Identify birds that would fall into these categories and research why they might have become endangered or extinct. Discuss ways birds are harmed and how to help protect them.

Imprinting [Just Alike Game]:

Have a class discussion about imprinting. Define imprinting—what is it and why is it important for baby birds to be with their moms when they hatch? Why is this process necessary? Do other animals imprint? Play the game “Just Alike”. Show students how to play by choosing four students to come to the front of the room. Choose a student

from the front to jump. Have the others at the front jump the same way. Have class create a list of imprinting gestures (cry, wave, laugh, clap, skip, stomp, etc.). Allow students to work in small groups and play the game. Either assign a “mother”/leader or allow students to choose. After a few minutes assign or have them choose a new leader.

ART & MUSIC

Penguin Art:



Create a penguin wearing a bowtie. Have students cut out one large black oval, one medium white oval, two tiny white circles, two small orange triangles, one small orange water-drop shape, two small black triangles, and one tiny black circle. Show students how to paste all

shapes in place to look like the penguin image pictured here. (Tips: Make a few sturdy templates for students to use to trace shapes onto construction paper before cutting. Display a completed penguin figure in front of the classroom for easier understanding.)

Nest Collage:

What do birds use to build their homes? (nests) Where are they built? (on branches, inside trees, in burrows under in the ground) Have students bring in pieces of cloth, string, twigs, and other items that can be used to build a bird’s nest and ask them to create unique nests using the materials. They can create a 3D nest or outline a nest on construction paper and glue items over the outline.

Birdsong:

How are birds able to sing? What could they be saying? Create a class song about a bird describing its color, how it moves, what it enjoys eating, etc. The lyrics may include any other details about birds, including what it might be saying.

DANCE & MOVEMENT

Bird Movement:

Discuss with students how birds get around. (swim, fly, walk, run) List the types of movements on the board and discuss when birds they might want to run or fly. Talk about what body parts birds use to move (clawed feet, webbed feet, flying wings, flipper-like wings, etc.) and the actions birds might use as they move (run or perch, paddle, flap, swim, etc.). Have students stand. Play a song from the internet or from a CD. Any quick song will do. When you point to an action have students mimic the movement. They can do all the movements in place.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Community Outreach:

1. Draw up a proposal to generate grant money so that your school can create a community garden.
2. Work with a parents’ organization in your school to raise money to donate to a reputable wildlife federation or a nature center in your area.
3. Visit a local nature center (or send off for materials) and find out ways you can help protect birds in your area.

Bird Garden/Birdbath

Decorate a birdbath picture and make a list of things that would be needed to create a real birdbath/bird garden. To print out a coloring page for your students, please visit http://coloringpagesplus.com/Birds_B.html.

Birds, Birds, Birds! Word Search:

Visit <http://funschool.kaboose.com/formula-fusion/birds-of-a-feather/printables/puzzles.html> for a free printable word search and puzzles about birds.

Bird Theme Printouts:

Visit www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/birds/printouts/ for additional bird related printouts.

RELATED READING

The Emperor’s Egg by Martin Jenkins, Somerville: Candlewick, 2003

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman, New York: Random House Books for Young Readers, 1960

Penguins! by Gail Gibbons, New York: Holiday House, 1999

Antarctic Antics: A Book of Penguin Poems by Judy Sierra, Jose Aruego, and Ariane Dewey, London: Sandpiper, 2003

We have authors and illustrators who visit schools and libraries! For more information regarding author appearances, visit our website or contact us:

**www.peachtreeauthors.com
404.876.8761 x111
schoolpromotions@peachtree-online.com**

Teacher’s Guide for Peachtree’s Birds Books was prepared by Kenyette Kilpatrick, Kenya Kilpatrick, and Florine Kilpatrick.

Peachtree’s Teacher’s Guide order #: BIRD Theme TG Copyright©2011 by Peachtree Publishers. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or any other – except for the printing of complete pages, with the copyright notice, for instructional uses only and not for resale. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be mailed to: Permissions Department, Peachtree Publishers, 1700 Chattahoochee Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30318-2112.

Class sets are available. Call for pricing.

**ph (404) 876-8761 | (800) 241-0113 sales ph
fax (404) 875-2578 | (800) 875-8909 sales fax
<http://www.peachtree-online.com>**

Updated 1.24.11