

STA Team (HI)

Online resources:

Birds project.



An adult Peregrine Falcon; you can see them flying above the cliffs at St Catherine's point. A pair have also been roosting in the spire of All Saints church in Ryde

(Useful for year 6 upwards)

Introduction: Identifying Birds

- Identifying birds that we see around can be a good fun exercise. It can be used as the start of more involved projects. Developing listening skills and processing sounds heard in nature so that they can be mimicked is a useful skill for all, and particularly for deaf children. This website is from the RSPB and is good for looking at and identifying birds in your gardens, on a window ledge or seen on a walk. If you have a pair of binoculars they will help with the identification. The ability to take photos will help. Phones and cameras have excellent zoom facilities and can help identify a bird which may be a long way away.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/go-birdwatching/>

Art Projects:

- Once the birds have been spotted, identified and maybe photographed, there is a lot of potential for art projects focussed around this groundwork. The website below highlights several activities that can be carried out. The level of difficulty varies from learning how to sketch simple bird pictures to producing 3D models. The resources needed for these activities also varies from pencil and paper to clay and fabrics. Sketching from the student's own photos is very rewarding and one of our deaf students has gone on to make something of a career out of wildlife illustration from very similar beginnings. There are many bird sketching tutorials to be found on YouTube, there is an example below.

<https://www.accessart.org.uk/drawing-and-making-birds/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AiSQvfze70>

Music Projects

- There has been a lot of music written about birds. It is good to listen to a variety of tunes and songs from different eras and genres. A Lark Ascending is a fantastic piece of music written at the beginning of last century by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Asking the students to listen to it and write a piece of creative writing about it is one of the many activities that can be developed from this piece of music. Listening to how the flute mimics a real lark and listening to real lark birdsong are both good exercises for our students.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZR2JIDnT2l8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBp1Q_bHe0Y

- For students who play instruments, there are many tutorials on sites such as You Tube, which teach aspiring musicians how to play a host of tunes on a variety of instruments. Picking such a tutorial for a tune with a bird theme will fit in with this topic. For the more accomplished guitar player, I have put an example of a tutorial for Blackbird by the Beatles.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBp1Q_bHe0Y

Maths Projects:

- You can create a bar chart from the data from the results of the 2019 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch results. The link below gives the data. For the more advanced student, other types of data representation might be tried, e.g. pie charts, line graphs. The students can plot the percentages, or the actual number of birds seen in the average garden, but care has to be taken as these figures are given to 1 decimal place. You might like to talk about rounding up or down with the students, if there are problems, look at BBC bitesize for help. The second link below is to this site. If these ideas are too advanced, just look at the list and prompt the students into suggesting why particular birds may be at the top of the list and others not on it, e.g. the song thrush whose numbers are in decline because of a lack of habitat. Ask the students why seagulls are not on the list?

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/news/rspb-big-garden-birdwatch-results-2019/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3nygk7>

Geography Projects:

- Looking at a map of the world, discussions can be had about the various migration routes taken by birds, the first link below looks at routes for common birds. At this time of year, we are starting to see swallows arriving. In the article about swallows given in the second hyperlink below, look at the outline map of the migration route. Most of the path is over Africa; use an atlas to name the countries and make notes on the size and human population of selected ones. This could be used as a general project and could be expanded to research the life of a deaf child in some of these countries and compare the student's experiences with those of the young people studied. The third and fourth links below are to a programme about a young deaf person growing up in Uganda.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/natures-home-magazine/birds-and-wildlife-articles/migration/choosing-the-route/>

<https://leitrimannals.com/2015/06/29/many-swallows-make-a-summer/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHfC6jqBhkk>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5f31_UbCPq4

English Projects:

There are many poems and stories in the English language which refer to birds. I have included one in the first hyperlink below. This is the Raven by Edgar Allen Poe. With the student, look at the language used, have a dictionary ready so that you can look up any vocabulary that the student has not met before. This poem is often read at Halloween, ask the student why this might be the case. The student can then have a go at writing a poem about a bird they have seen in the garden; they can then put this together with a sketch to make a poster. To help with learning the specific vocabulary that relates to birds, a word search can be used, an example is given in the second hyperlink given below. It also gives vocabulary lists, and quizzes, all of which are printable.

<https://poets.org/poem/raven>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/birds-printables-1832368>

Biology projects:

Using the information given in the first hyperlink, discuss with the student the lifecycle of a bluebird (not native to the UK). The sheet can be printed out and the student can colour and then put the pictures in the correct order. Watch the David Attenborough video about Emperor Penguins and their young, ask if there is anything unusual about the male doing the baby sitting for the first few weeks.

<https://www.lessonplanet.com/teachers/life-cycle-of-a-bluebird>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfstYSUscBc>