

Friends of the Rappahannock

River Friends: Birds Lessons and Activities

These lessons were prepared as a preschool, introductory environmental education resource. These lessons also reinforce colors, letters, shapes, fine motor skills, and kindness/friendship. The format of these lessons can be adjusted based on classroom level and ages.

RIVER FRIENDS VIDEO - Together as a class (approximately 15 min) - Teacher-led
Video can be accessed at FOR's YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/sMr841dOqi0>
Discussion questions (after viewing the video):

- At the end of the video, as Eagle is asking the students questions about what type of birds they see, pause the video to give the students a chance to answer and discuss.
- What was Otter using to look for birds? If available, provide an example of a pair of binoculars or a magnifying glass. Have the students look through and find an object far away in the classroom. Does it make the object look closer or far away? Why would binoculars be a good tool for bird watching?
- Go over the characteristics of mammals and birds. What kind of animal is Otter? Why? What kind of animal is Eagle? Why? What kind of animal are we? Why?
- Go around the room and ask each student what their favorite bird is and why.

CRAFT STATION - Together as a class (approximately 15 min.) - Teacher-led



- Pine Cone Bird Feeders - Materials:
 - Medium to large Pinecones
 - Peanut butter or Sun butter
 - Bird seed
 - Yarn or string
 - Plastic spoon
 - Lunch bag
 - Crayons, markers, colored pencils
 - Box or butcher block paper

Have the students decorate the lunch bag with crayons, markers, or colored pencils while setting up the bird seed station.

Pre-string the pine cone before the craft. Place bird seed in a box or on butcher paper. Have students come over one or two

at a time to seed their pinecone after they are finished decorating their bag. Use the spoon to cover the pinecone with peanut butter and have the students roll or shake the seed onto the cone. Place immediately into their bag. This project can get messy.



- **Egg Carton Egg Masks-Materials:**

- Cardboard egg cartons
- Yarn or string
- Hole punch
- Glue stick
- Markers or paint
- Feathers, pom poms, felt squares, pipe cleaners, etc.

Prepare before the craft: Pre-cut the egg cartons to make two eyes. Pop out the middle for the eye holes. Use the hole

punch to put two holes on the side of the mask for the yarn or string to attach. Tie a piece of yarn or string to each side of the mask.

Have the students use marks or paint to color their mask. Use the glue to attach various craft items onto their mask, such as feathers, pom poms, felt squares, etc.

Once finished, tie the two pieces of string around the students head so they can wear it. Another option is to attach a popsicle stick to one side of the mask with glue or glue dots and have the student hold the mask up to their face.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY - Together as a class (approximately 10 min. or student's attention level - Teacher-monitored

- Before going outside, give each student a piece of construction paper, folded in half. Students can decorate a "Bird Observation Journal" using markers, crayons, or colored pencils. Stamps can also be used if available.
- Take the students for a walk outside around the school or playground. When they see, or observe, a bird they get a dot sticker to place inside their journals.
- When they come back inside, have the students count how many birds they observed. Use the board to tally up how many bird sightings were found. Count out loud with the students.
- Ask questions about whether the birds they saw were flying, perching, different colors, sizes, etc.

INSIDE ACTIVITY - Together as a class (approximately 10 min. or student's attention level - Teacher-led with computer

- Listen to different bird songs and identify what birds make which sounds.
Teachers can download the Merlin Bird ID app to identify birds they see or hear during the Outdoor Activity. Teachers can also use the following website to show students different birds and their songs: <https://www.bird-sounds.net/>

READING and SONG/MOVEMENT STATION - (optional) - Together as a class -
Teacher-led

- See *Book Resources* and *Song/Movement Suggestions* for Ideas or choose any classroom resources that relate to Birds

Songs/Movement Suggestions

This list is just a suggestion and most can be found on YouTube.

- *Rockin' Robin*
- *Five Little Ducks*
- *The Turkey is a Silly Bird*
- *This is the way - bird song:*

This is the way we scratch for worms, scratch for worms, scratch for worms (Kids scratch at the ground)

This is the way we scratch for worms so early in the morning.

This is the way we peck for food, peck for food, peck for food (kids peck with their noses in the air)

This is the way we peck for food so early in the morning.

This is the way we sit on our eggs, sit on our eggs, sit on our eggs (kids sit on the floor)

This is the way we sit on our eggs so early in the morning.

This is the way we flap our wings, flap our wings, flap our wings (kids flap their arms)

This is the way we flap our wings so early in the morning.

This is the way we fly away, fly away, fly away (kids flap their arms and walk around the circle or mat)

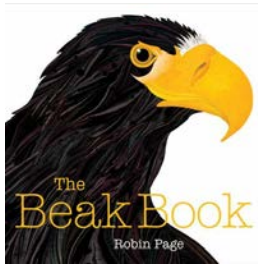
This is the way we fly away so early in the morning.

Book Resources

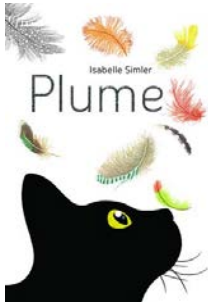
This list is just a suggestion and currently available through Central Rappahannock Regional Library.



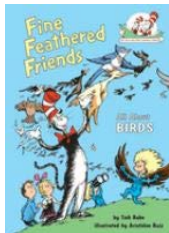
Birds by Pamela Hickman



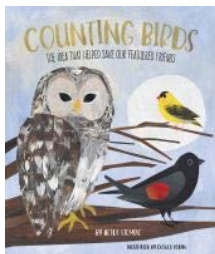
The Beak Book by Robin Page



Plume by Isabelle Simler



Fine Feathered Friends by Tish Rabe



Counting Birds: The Idea that Helped Save Our Feathered Friends by Heidi E. Y. Stemple