

Exploration Birds

COMPARE

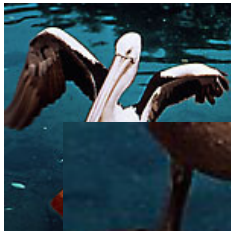
What's different about their feet? Describe each bird's foot using words.



How do you think this bird's foot would move?

What could this bird do with its foot?

Rainbow Lorikeet



How do you think this bird's foot would move?

Could this bird pick anything up with its foot?

Pelican



How do you think this bird's feet would move?

What could this bird do with its feet (and legs)?

Great Blue Heron

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FUN FACTS



Fun Fact:

The Rainbow Lorikeet uses its feet to hold on to trees and hold its food while it eats.

Lorikeets have a brushlike tongue structure that helps them extract nectars from blossoms.

Rainbow Lorikeet



Fun Fact:

The Pelican uses its feet to swim.

To feed it swims with its head and neck submerged to catch fish.

Pelican



Fun Facts:

The Great Blue Heron uses its feet to wade in water.

This is America's largest heron. It is common in freshwater and saltwater habitats.

Great Blue Heron



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FIELD JOURNAL

Instructions

Let's go bird watching! Choose a spot where you think you will see a lot of different birds.

When you get a good look at an interesting bird, draw a picture of it and then try to describe it. As you are drawing, you might want to think about these questions:

- What colors did you see on the bird?
- What shape was its beak?
- Could you see its feet?
- How could you draw the bird's feathers on your picture?

When you are finished, look at all of your pictures. How are the birds the same? How are they different?

Your Name:	Today's Date:
What's the Weather Like?	

Draw the birds you see in the space below.



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TIPS FOR ADULT HELPERS

General Tips

- 1. Try to ask children open-ended questions.** These kind of questions help children talk about nature. For example, a useful open-ended question could be, “How would you describe this shell?”
- 2. There are many “correct” answers.** When asking open-ended questions, remember that there is no one “correct” answer. There are many “right” answers. The goal is to have children and adults have a thoughtful discussion.
- 3. Praise thoughtful answers.** If you ask a close-ended question (such as “What animal lives in that shell?” or “What color is that bird?”), any thoughtful answer could be praised. Even if the child’s answer is inaccurate, you could say something like, “That was a great idea. You know, that is how scientists learn, by thinking and trying out different ideas.”
- 4. Start from what the child knows already.** When trying to get a thoughtful discussion going, start with what the child already knows about a topic. Use that information as a springboard for further exploration. Through discussion and exploration, children can expand and revise their knowledge about nature.
- 5. Explore together.** If the topic is new to you as an adult helper, share this information with the child. You can make guesses and explore together. All science starts off with questions, not answers.
- 6. Science IS exploration and discovery.** When you let children try out different theories, you help introduce them to the scientific method and start building research skills.
- 7. Explore a science book together.** If a child is interested in a particular topic, you might want to follow up the activity reading a science book together and writing down what you have learned about the topic.

Examples of Open Ended Questions About Birds

When discussing the birds’ **feathers and beaks**, you might begin by asking:

- How are the beaks/feathers different from each other?
- How are they the same?
- You could also discuss the **function of each beak**. (For example, some beaks are long and pointed to facilitate burrowing.)

You might ask questions such as:

- What shape is this bird’s beak?
- Why do you think this bird’s beak is ____? (skinny/long/sharp/small/etc.)
- What could the bird do with this kind of beak?
- What kinds of things do you think this bird might eat?