

BIRDS

THEMED PROGRAMME



AIM

Get to know your British garden birds better and find out some interesting facts about them. Create a bird feeder to hang at home and use your new knowledge of birds to identify the birds in your garden. Link to 'RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch'.

ACTIVITIES

-  Bird Dominoes
-  Bird Mask
-  Toilet Roll Bird Feeder
-  Peace Doves
-  Cat Attack

BIRDS

» INTRODUCTION

Birds are found on every continent of the world, from freezing cold environments to sizzling hot deserts.

Birds also come in lots of shapes and sizes, from the tiny bee humming bird (6cm long) to the giant ostrich (2.5m tall).

Whilst all birds have feathers, not all of them can fly. Some birds such as penguins and ostriches aren't able to use their wings to fly.


? DID YOU KNOW?

- There are over 10,000 known species of birds.
- The chicken is the most common species of birds in the world. There's over 50 billion.
- Birds are the only animals with feathers.
- It's estimated that there are 18 million pigeons in the UK.
- An ostrich can run as fast as 45mph.
- Hummingbirds can fly backwards.
- Bird bones are hollow – this makes them lighter for flying.



GET LEARNING: ME & MY WORLD BIRD DOMINOES

Learn the names of different birds, whilst also playing a game of dominoes.

- 1  Download and print a copy of the 'Bird Dominoes' activity sheet. This provides 28 domino tiles for you to play with, each with different birds on. A leader will need to cut them up before the activity. If playing with a large group, you'll ideally need a set for every 4-5 children/pairs.
- 2 Lay all the dominoes face down on the table.
- 3 Each child should randomly select 5 dominoes to start with. They can look at them once selected but must keep them hidden from the rest of the group.
- 4 Nominate one child to go first. They should lay a domino in the middle of the table. The second player tries to put a domino on the table that matches one side of what's already there (i.e. a robin and a robin). If a player cannot go, the player picks a domino from the pile of leftovers and skips that turn.
- 5 Continue taking turns putting dominoes on the table (or picking one from the pile if you cannot go) until someone runs out of dominoes and wins.

Afterwards, see if the children have learnt the names of the 7 birds you've been playing with, by holding up the images and seeing if they can name the birds.





GET CREATIVE




20 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

GET CREATIVE: ARTY & CRAFTY BIRD MASK

Using a simple mask template, transform it into a colourful feathered bird such as a parrot, toucan or peacock.

-  Print out a bird mask template for each child. Alternatively, you could create/draw your own. Ideally these should be created using card.
- Children could choose to colour in the mask first, to give it a colourful base, or skip straight to step 3.
- Place a large variety of coloured feathers and other bright craft materials on the table. Children can apply glue to the edge of their mask and then stick the feathers around the edge of the mask, pointing outwards, to look like a birds face.
- Once decorated, allow the glue to dry.
- Finally attach a piece of elastic to the two sides, or tape a skewer to one side, to allow children to wear / hold their mask on / to their face.

What you'll need:

- Bird Mask Template
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Colourful Feathers
- Glue
- Colouring Pens
- Elastic / Wooden Skewer



GET INVOLVED



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

GET INVOLVED: PROTECTING OUR WORLD TOILET ROLL BIRD FEEDER

Create a homemade bird feeder that you can hang in your garden, to help feed the birds.

- Give each child a toilet roll tube and a table knife.
- Using the knife, spread the lard / suet over the toilet roll. You could also use peanut butter, but please check for allergies first.
- Roll the covered toilet roll in a tray of bird seeds, so it sticks to the lard.
- Feed some string through the tube to create a large loop, which you can use to hang the feeder from a tree or similar.
- Encourage children to take their bird feeder home and hang them up. Over the coming week, ask them to keep an eye on it and see if they can spot any birds feeding. Can they capture a photo or identify which bird has visited? Make sure to check back in with the group the following week to find out.

What you'll need:



- Toilet Roll Tube
- Lard / Suet
- Bird Seeds
- Table Knife
- String





GET INTO THE BIBLE: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN VALUES

PEACE DOVES

- 1 Ask the children what they think 'peace' means? One definition of peace is 'When people live and work together happily without disagreements'.
- 2 Ask the group why they think being peaceful and kind to others is important. Answers may include that it stops fights / war, that it means people's feeling aren't hurt and that it also is the way God wants us to live.
 **'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31**
- 3 Sometimes it can be difficult to always be at peace with everyone. There will be times at school, home and BB when you're a bit fed up with someone and you might end up getting into an argument with them. Sadly all of us fall out with people sometimes. However, the Bible clearly tells us we must try and get on with everyone!
 **'Try to be at peace with everyone, and try to live a holy life, because no one will see the Lord without it.' Hebrews 12:14**
- 4 To try and help us remember that we should always strive to be peaceful with those around us, create a 'Peace Dove' that you can take home as a reminder of the Bible verse. Doves are well known to be a symbol of peace. Use the steps below to create your peace dove.

PEACE DOVE

- 1 Cut out a circle of card. Bend it in half and glue it down to create a semi-circle
- 2 Use the flat end of the semicircle as the top of the dove. At one end draw an eye and the beak. Repeat this on the back of the semi-circle too.
- 3 A leader should cut a horizontal slit in the middle of the bird.
- 4 Lie a piece of paper flat in front of you. Fold over a piece about ½ inch wide. Turn the paper over and fold again. Keep turning and folding until all paper is fully folded into a fan.
- 5 Feed the folded paper through the slit, until halfway through. This will create the dove's wings. If needed, tape these into place.
- 6 You now have a completed peace dove. If you wish to, attach some string to the top, so you can hang it.



GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES

CAT ATTACK

- 1 Place hoops or cones randomly on the floor. Spread the children around the room and explain that they are going to be birds. The hoops/cones represent safe trees to land in. Make sure there are enough hoops / cones for each person playing
- 2 Start the game by asking the group (birds) to fly around the room, flapping their wings as they go. They could also make bird noises too.
- 3 When a leader shouts 'Cat Attack' everyone must quickly make it to a hoop / cone to be safe from the cat. Only one bird can land in each tree. For the first round, everyone should be safe.
- 4 Continue playing, but now take away one hoop / cone each time. What should now happen is that each time 'cat attack' is called, one bird won't make it to safety and should be eliminated from the game.
- 5 Keep going until only one bird remains. They are the winner of the game.

BIRD DOMINOES



PIGEON



PIGEON



PIGEON



BLACKBIRD



PIGEON



ROBIN



PIGEON



CROW



PIGEON



MAGPIE



ROBIN



ROBIN



PIGEON



SEAGULL



ROBIN



MAGPIE



PIGEON



BLUE TIT



ROBIN



SEAGULL

BIRD DOMINOES



ROBIN



BLUE TIT



MAGPIE



BLUE TIT



ROBIN



BLACKBIRD



MAGPIE



BLACKBIRD



ROBIN



CROW



MAGPIE



CROW



MAGPIE



MAGPIE



SEAGULL



SEAGULL



MAGPIE



SEAGULL



SEAGULL



BLUE TIT



BIRD DOMINOES



SEAGULL



BLACKBIRD



BLUE TIT



CROW



SEAGULL



CROW



BLACKBIRD



BLACKBIRD



BLUE TIT



BLUE TIT



BLACKBIRD



CROW



BLUE TIT



BLACKBIRD



CROW



CROW

BIRD MASK

