

Distance Learning Bird Activities

Teaching about birds from a distance might actually help the students see more birds! When we look for birds as a whole class we tend to be a little noisy! Teaching about birds and then assigning students to complete activities outside in their yard can reinforce those lessons.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has excellent teaching resources. Many of these activities and resources come from Cornell.

For grades 3-5:

Bird Intro

- PowerPoint slides [link](#)
- All About A Bird worksheet (find on PEBC Teacher Resource page) Students will search the online bird guide, pick a species to learn about, and answer the questions. If students do not have internet access, the free Merlin app will have the information too.

Adaptations

- How Woodpeckers Avoid Injury video [link](#) This series on woodpecker adaptations by MIT is very well done. It is broken into segments. Segments 2-3 are good for a basic bird intro. Segments 1-6 answer the question of how woodpeckers can avoid brain injury. Segment six gets more complicated for a younger audience. Teachers might be better off summarizing it for the students and avoiding segment 6.
- Flap to the Future game [link](#) An interactive game about the evolution of birds. Students collect eggs as dinosaurs and gain points to evolve to the next species. It will be popular for the game aspect, but includes learning about the features of dinosaurs and birds.

Bird Watching

- MN DNR EagleCam [link](#) The eagle pair did hatch eggs this year. This live stream is a great way to watch wildlife from home. Remember this is live; there are dead prey animals brought to the nest and there is no guarantee the eaglets survive.
- Observe a Bird worksheet (find on PEBC Teacher Resource page) This observation and writing activity sends students to the window or outdoors to watch for a bird. They should look for one they think will stay there for at least 2 minutes.
- Video on Bird Color Pattern [link](#) Learn how to quickly notice the most important patterns on a bird for easier identification.

Bird Calls

- Bird Song Hero [link](#) Students will learn about visualizing bird calls on spectrograms to help them remember different bird calls.
- Make a Sound Map [link](#) Students will sit quietly for a few minutes outside recording what sounds they hear. With a pencil, paper, and something hard to write on, have the

student sit outside for 5-10 minutes depending on their age. Mark their location with an x in the center of the page. When they hear a sound they make a simple mark recording where it came from on their map.

Migration

- SciShow Kids YouTube [link](#) on animal migration - learn why, who, and how migration works.
- Migration and flying worksheet [link](#) Students map their migration route and experiment with paper planes to see what impacts successful flying.

Middle School Students:

- Flap to the Future game [link](#) An interactive game about the evolution of birds. Continue the learning with Jump, Glide, Fly: Exploring Bird Evolution [link](#). This lesson plan, composed of three activities, explores modern birds and their dinosaur ancestors, adaptations for flight, and the relationship between structure and function. This free lesson plan is perfect for students grades 6-8 and those learning about evolution or adaptations!