



Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Due Date: _____

Introduction to Ornithology

Welcome to the fascinating world of ornithology! Ornithology is the scientific study of birds, including their behavior, physiology, and evolution. As a 14-year-old student, you will have the opportunity to explore the basic characteristics of birds, their importance in ecosystems, and the diverse species that inhabit our planet.

Activity 1: What Do You Know About Birds?

Write down three things you know about birds.

Share your answers with a partner or in a small group.

Discuss any common misconceptions or interesting facts you've learned.

Bird Characteristics and Classification

Birds are warm-blooded, egg-laying, feathered vertebrates that belong to the class Aves. They have several distinct characteristics, including:

- Feathers
- Beaks
- Wings
- Lightweight skeleton
- Endothermy (regulating their own body temperature)

Activity 2: Bird Classification

Match the following bird characteristics with their definitions:

- Feathers: _____
- Beaks: _____
- Wings: _____
- Lightweight skeleton: _____
- Endothermy: _____

Use the following definitions:

- Feathers: provide insulation and support
- Beaks: used for eating and preening
- Wings: used for flying and gliding
- Lightweight skeleton: allows for efficient flight
- Endothermy: regulates body temperature

Birds can be found in a variety of habitats, including forests, grasslands, deserts, and wetlands. Each habitat provides a unique set of resources and challenges for birds.

Activity 3: Bird Habitat Matching

Match the following bird species with their habitats:

- Hummingbird: _____
- Ostrich: _____
- Penguin: _____
- Eagle: _____

Use the following habitats:

- Forest
- Grassland
- Desert
- Wetland

--

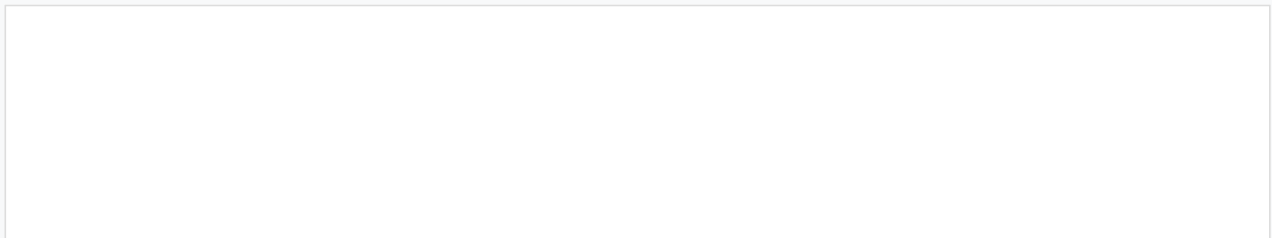
Many bird species migrate to different parts of the world at different times of the year. This migration is essential for their survival and can be influenced by various factors, including food availability, climate, and habitat destruction.

Activity 4: Bird Migration Patterns

Research and create a diagram showing the migration pattern of a specific bird species.

Include the following information:

- Starting and ending points
- Distance traveled
- Time of year
- Reasons for migration



Birds exhibit a range of behaviors, including mating rituals, territorial displays, and social interactions. Understanding these behaviors can provide insights into their social structure and communication methods.

Activity 5: Bird Behavior Observation

Observe and record the behavior of a bird species in its natural habitat.

Include the following information:

- Type of behavior (e.g., foraging, nesting, flying)
- Time of day
- Location
- Any notable interactions with other birds or species

Creating a Bird-Friendly Habitat

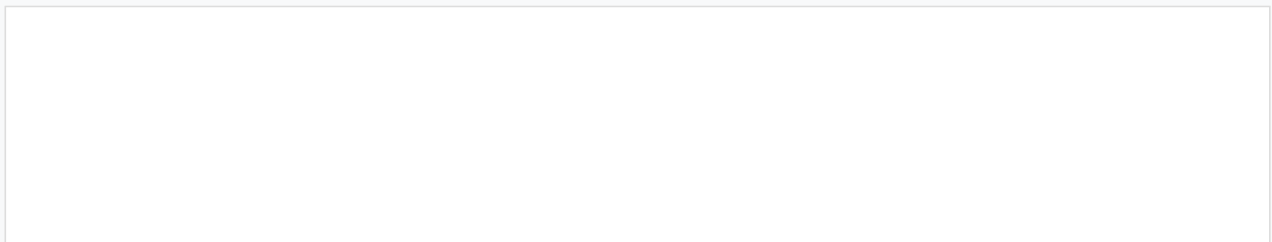
Creating a bird-friendly habitat can be as simple as providing food, water, and shelter. You can make a difference in your community by designing and implementing a bird-friendly habitat.

Activity 6: Design a Bird-Friendly Habitat

Research and design a bird-friendly habitat for your school or community.

Include the following features:

- Food sources (e.g., bird feeders, plants)
- Water sources (e.g., birdbaths, ponds)
- Shelter (e.g., trees, shrubs, birdhouses)
- Native plants and vegetation



Bird identification can be a fun and rewarding hobby. By keeping a journal of your observations, you can track your progress and learn more about the birds in your area.

Activity 7: Bird Identification

Research and identify a bird species using field guides and online resources.

Record the following information in your journal:

- Date and time of sighting
- Location
- Description of the bird (e.g., size, shape, color, beak shape)
- Any notable behaviors or interactions

Conclusion and Reflection

Congratulations on completing this introduction to ornithology! Reflect on what you've learned and how you can apply it to your everyday life.

Activity 8: Reflection

Write a short reflection on what you've learned about birds and their ecosystems.

Include the following:

- What you found most interesting or surprising
- How you can apply what you've learned to your everyday life
- What you would like to learn more about in the future

Assess your understanding of the material by completing the following quiz.

Quiz

1. What is the scientific study of birds called?
 - a) Ornithology
 - b) Biology
 - c) Ecology
 - d) Zoology
2. What is the main function of a bird's beak?
 - a) To eat
 - b) To fly
 - c) To nest
 - d) To communicate
3. Which bird species is known for its distinctive call that sounds like laughter?
 - a) Kookaburra
 - b) Penguin
 - c) Ostrich
 - d) Eagle

Additional Resources and Activities

Explore the following resources and activities to further your knowledge and appreciation of birds and their ecosystems.

- National Audubon Society: <https://www.audubon.org>
- BirdLife International: <https://www.birdlife.org>
- Local birding groups and clubs

Remember to always respect and appreciate birds and their habitats. Happy birding!