

Amazing Animals

Publisher

DK Multimedia

Software Description

Full of interesting facts, activities, and videos of animals and their babies, this program provides children with many fun ways to learn about animals. The main menu of the program is a collage of menu items with symbols for activities.

Activities include “Scrambler,” “Match the Facts,” “Photo Safari,” “Amazing Masks,” “Animal Movies,” “Matching Pairs,” “Picalator,” “Copy Cat,” and “Stationary Folder.” From printing animal masks for dramatic play to matching baby animals with a parent, children will find well-known domestic animals and not so familiar wild animals that will support learning. If your classroom has an Internet connection, a direct link in the menu will take young children to DK’s Amazing Animals web site where discovery continues.

System Requirements

Macintosh

System 7.0 or higher
68LC040 25 MHz CPU
8 MB RAM (12 MB required for System 7.5+ and for Power PC)
640 x 480 display
256 colors
2X CD-ROM
9 MB available space on hard drive
8-bit audio

Windows

Windows 3.1 or higher
486 DX/33 MHz + CPU
8 MB RAM
640 x 480 display
256 colors
2X CD-ROM
8-bit sound card

Optional Computer Accessories

External speakers
Printer
Touch screen

Introductory Activity

Observe the types of birds near the classroom. Ask if the children know the names of any of the birds. Do the children know what the birds eat? Some birds eat seeds, some eat worms and insects, and still other birds eat small animals and birds. What do birds have in common with humans? What is different about them? The children’s answers can be written down for documentation. This would be a good time for the children to tell what they want to learn about birds.

Child Outcomes and Standards Addressed

Children will:

- Know that birds are living things and have needs (food, water, shelter).
Science: Life Science; Unifying Concepts and Processes; Science as Inquiry
- Be able to identify and classify common bird species.
Math: Algebra
Science: Life Science
- Collect, analyze, and report information about the feeding habits of birds.
Math: Number and Operation; Measurement; Data Analysis, and Probability; Communication; Representation
Science: Life Science; Unifying Concepts and Processes; Science as Inquiry; Science in Personal and Social Perspectives
Social Studies: People, Places, and Environments
- Discover that different environments are home to different species of birds.
Science: Life Science; Science as Inquiry
Social Studies: People, Places, and Environments
- Create schoolyard feeding areas for birds.
Math: Number and Operation; Algebra;
Science: Life Science; Science in Personal and Social Perspectives
Social Studies: Civic Ideals and Practices

Materials

Computer
Printer
Amazing Animals
Books about birds for the reading center
Feathers
Bird seed
Materials to make bird feeders
Pictures of birds common to the area
Digital camera

Ahead of Time

Set up birdfeeders near the classroom several days before the activity so birds will notice the feeder and eat from it.

Computer Activity

Explore the software *Amazing Animals*. Some of the stickers in the book include birds like the smew, an eagle, an ostrich, and blue tit. Children can discover that birds can be predators as well as prey.

Related Activities

Math

Observe and count the types of birds seen near the bird feeder. Chart and graph results

Young Children as Explorers: Interactive Learning Experiences

Join a bird watching program like Project Feeder Watch or the Great American Backyard Bird Count. Ask children to take turns as the “official counters” and report the data to the class. Help the children enter their data on the national watch web pages.

Measure the seed that goes into the bird feeder. Have the children keep track of how much food the birds and other animals eat.

Make a bird feeding necklace with “o”-shaped cereals. Children can make patterns using plain and fruit-flavored cereals. Hang the necklaces in trees or on shrubs where the birds will find them.

Science

Print different environments (pond, forest, ocean) from My First Incredible, Amazing Dictionary or Scholastic’s The Magic Schoolbus Explores the World of Animals for an animal sorting activity. Have animal photos, cards, and plastic figures available to place in the appropriate environment.

Observe bird activities throughout the day. Keep a bird guide nearby to identify the different birds at the feeders. Pictures of birds common to the area can be enlarged, printed, laminated, and placed near the observation area so children can more easily identify birds at the feeder. A variety of charting and graphing activities can take place. Provide nesting materials for the birds to use (yarn, batting, cotton balls). Take a walk in the schoolyard and neighborhood to see if the nesting materials can be seen in trees, shrubs, and other areas.

Make Bird's Nests for snack.

Makes 10 servings.

6-2/3 cups chow mein noodles 5 cups miniature marshmallows

1/4 cup and 1 tablespoon butter 50 small jellybeans

Directions

1. Line a cookie sheet with foil and grease with spray-on cooking oil.
2. Pour noodles into a large bowl. Melt the butter and marshmallows over medium heat, stirring until smooth. Pour marshmallow mixture over noodles, stirring until well coated.
3. Rub some butter on hands and form noodle mixture into ten round balls. Place balls on prepared cookie sheet. With the back of a teaspoon, press the center of each ball to make a hollow indentation.
4. Let nests set until they are firm. Fill each with small jellybeans. (Or use other goodies, such as M & M's, small gumdrops, chocolate covered raisins, or chocolate covered peanuts)

Take digital pictures of birds at the feeders. Create a journal about the birds using HyperStudio or display pictures near the window by the feeder. Children can match the bird they see at the feeder area.

Engage children in a “feeding” activity. Use tweezers, slotted spoons, needle-nose pliers, and straws as beaks. Water, gummy worms, small pieces of celery in water, and nuts are the food. (Paper clips, rubber bands, toothpicks and uncooked macaroni can be used instead of food items). Have children explore which beaks works best at picking up each kind of food. Ask them what kind of birds might have these beaks?

Social Studies

- Explore the types of birds found in other areas. Have relatives send postcards or photos of birds common to their areas (flamingos, sandpipers, pelicans, road runners, snow geese).
- Have an expert on birds visit the class.
- Use the *Birdsong Identiflyer* to let children see and hear birds common to other geographic areas.

Family Activities

- Create the cereal loops necklaces for the backyard or a nearby green area.
- Take bird watching walks.

Related Software

- *Biodiveristy of Illinois Volume 1: Aquatic Habitats*
- *Bird Songs 1 & 2* (Shareware for Macintosh)
- *HyperStudio*
- *Kid Pix*
- *My First Incredible, Amazing Dictionary*
- *Sammy's Science House*
- *Stellaluna*

Related Internet Sites

The Audubon Society: <http://www.audubon.org>

Bird Songs: [http:// www.wbird.com/songs.htm](http://www.wbird.com/songs.htm)

Project Feeder Watch: <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw>

Web Cam Locator: <http://www.webcamlocator.com/animals/bird.htm>

Wild Birds Unlimited Bird Feeder Cam: http://www.wbu.com/feederacam_home.htm

Children's Literature

Aronsky, J. (1993). *Crinkleroot's 25 birds every child should know*. New York: Bradbury Press.

Your big backyard. Washington, DC: National Wildlife Federation.

Cannon, J. (1993). *Stellaluna*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace.

Coleman, M. (1993). *The dreams of hummingbirds*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman.

Erdrich, L., & Lamarche, J. (1999). *Grandmother's pigeon*. New York: Hyperion Press

Gans, R., & Mirocha, P. (1996). *How do birds find their way?* New York: HarperTrophy.

Maass, R. (1993). *When winter comes*. New York: Henry Holt.

Oppenheim, J. (1986). *Have you seen birds?* New York: Scholastic.

Root, P., & Chapman, J. (1998). *One duck stuck*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

Sill, J., & Sill, C. (1997). *About birds: A guide for children*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree.

Snedden, R. (1992). *What is a bird?* San Francisco: Sierra Club Books for Young Children.

Yolen, J., & Lewin, T. (1999). *Bird watch: A book of poetry*. New York: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.

Additional Resources

Allen, T. (2000). *Birdsong Identiflyer*. Sencea, SC: For the Birds, LLC.

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