



SOTEAG

SHETLAND OIL TERMINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY GROUP

Teachers Notes

Activity: Bird Identification Game

Summary

Children will work in small groups to identify seabirds found in Shetland. The children will be guided through the task, firstly matching up the bird heads, then the feathers and feet and finally matching the bird names. The aim is to increase knowledge of seabirds and increase understanding of how hard it might be for a seabird monitor to identify a bird flying by at great speed or far away.

Materials per small group

- Bird Identification Game sheet
- Laminated bird names (12)
- Laminated close up images of bird heads, feet and feathers (24)

*There is a large fabric bird identification banner for the teacher to use to demonstrate the exercise.

Instructions

1. Hand out a bird Identification game sheet to each small group (2-4 children per group to encourage discussion amongst groups).
2. Ensure that each group has a copy of the 12 laminated bird names and 24 laminated bird images.
3. Ask the groups to firstly match up the bird heads to the birds on their bird Identification sheet.
4. Discuss: How did they find this exercise? Do they think that bird heads are easily distinguishable?
5. Then ask the groups to match up the bird feet and/or feathers to the birds on their bird identification sheet.
6. Discuss: How did they find this exercise? Was it easier or harder to identify the birds using their feet and/ or feathers compared to using their heads? Explain that bird monitors do not always have the luxury of seeing the face or the key identifiable features of the birds. Sometimes they will need to identify the bird by its feathers or feet as it flies by quickly.
7. Now ask the children to match up the common bird names to the birds on the bird identification sheet.
8. Discuss: Did they know their sea birds?
9. After a discussion about how many bird names they knew – discuss the role of a bird monitor. Ask the children what they think a bird monitor does and note down their responses.
10. Allow time for shared observations and then gain responses to specific questions.
11. Discuss the importance of monitoring seabirds.

Context for use

This activity is ideal to start teaching children about:

- Sea birds
- Habitats
- Local environment
- Environmental issues

Time: 1 hour

Subject Areas: Geography, Environmental Science and Biology

Resource Type: Classroom

Age: Primary School

Learning Goals

1. Children will work with partners or in small groups to facilitate discussions and shared observations.
2. Children will gain an insight into the skills needed to be a seabird monitor.

Tips

This activity has an emphasis on vocabulary, focussing on specific knowledge of seabirds.

Work together in small groups to encourage discussion and analysis.

Assessment

This will be done through teacher observation. The teacher will circulate and monitor groups as questions are asked. The teacher should look for appropriate use of materials, participation, reasonable responses and inferences, accurate observations and thoughtful, reflective ideas. Provide specific praise and feedback to those children who are performing at or above expectations. Additional questions and guidance will be offered to those who may be struggling.