

Science Story Adventures



African Birds

Learning outcomes

- » Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Plants and animals have predictable life cycles. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences)
- » Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Honey - Honey - Lion! by Jan Brett

Pierre the Penguin by Jean Marzollo

Activities we did

- » We talked about different types of birds found in Africa and looked at pictures of them.
- » We discussed how different birds' beaks have evolved to enable them to eat different foods, and we played a game about this called Bird Beak Buffet.

Today's craft : Flamingo



You will need:

- » Pink construction paper
- » Flamingo template (attached)
- » Scissors
- » Pink feathers or pompoms
- » Glue
- » Googly eyes
- » Black crayon or pencil
- » Pink pipecleaners or straws
- » Tape

Directions:

1. Draw around the flamingo template on the paper and cut out.
2. Decorate the body with pink feathers, draw in the black beak and put on a googly eye.
3. Tape on the pipecleaner legs.

Adapted from http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Animals/Feathered_Friends/Feathered_Friends.html

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Beautiful Blackbird by Ashley Bryan.

In this Zambian folktale, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew."

If You Should Hear a Honey Guide by April Pulley Sayre. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL696 .P55 S39 1995

Follow the honey guide through the Kenyan bush to find a tasty treat.

Mud City by Brenda Guiberson.

A story about the lifecycle of a flamingo.

Ostriches by Thane Maynard. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL696 .S9 M39 2007

Lots of information and photos about Africa's flightless bird.

DVDs

The Life of Birds. Nat. Ctr. Media QL698.3 .L53 2002

David Attenborough's 10-part series looks at thousands of species of birds across the world.

Penguins Under Siege. Nat. Ctr. Media QL696 .S473 P4638 2005

This video follows the lives of two African penguin chicks as they grow up on Africa's southwestern coast.

Websites

The Africa Guide: Birds

Beautiful photographs of some of Africa's many birds.

<http://www.africaguide.com/wildlife/birds.htm>

National Geographic Kids

Check out the creature feature on ostriches.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/ostrich/>

Oakland Zoo Animal Guides

Fact sheets on many African birds including the African Pied Crow, the Red-Billed Hornbill, the Red-Bellied Parrot, the Sacred Ibis and the Lesser Flamingo.

<http://www.oaklandzoo.org/animals/>

