

BIRD UNIT STUDY

Compilation of ideas sent in by AHE homeschoolers. Pick and choose what will suit your family the best.

MEMORY WORK:

- **Isaiah 40:31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as **eagles**; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- **Matthew 6:26** Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
- In the full light of day, and in hearing of the music of other voices, the caged bird will not sing the song that his master seeks to teach him. He learns a snatch of this, a trill of that, but never a separate and entire melody. But the master covers the cage, and places it where the bird will listen to the one song he is to sing. In the dark, he tries and tries again to sing that song until it is learned, and he breaks forth in perfect melody. Then the bird is brought forth, and ever after he can sing that song in the light. Thus God deals with His children. He has a song to teach us, and when we have learned it amid the shadows of affliction we can sing it ever afterward.--MH 472.

WORSHIP / BIBLE IDEAS:

- Story of Elijah being fed by the birds
- Parable of the Sparrows (how God knows when one falls)
- Story of flood
- Story of Jesus' baptism

SCIENCE:

- Discuss how it is important not to touch as some birds will abandon (although not all do) if there is a human scent.
- Bird anatomy – learn about feathers, bone structure,
- Learn about flight with birds
- Take flight a step further, learn about airplanes and helicopters and their flight designs (study how the helicopters were designed after the hummingbird)
- Classification - Different types such as raptors, song birds, etc.

NATURE STUDY:

- Spring is a great time to look for birds' nests to observe how many eggs, how long they incubate, and the way the parents feed the young.
- Pathfinder Birds and Advanced Birds honors. Find an honor manual locally or follow this link and look for the Birds honor. http://www.pathfindersonline.org/html/honors/honors_ay_manual.htm The Answer key can be found In Wikibooks at http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book
- Adventurer Award Feathered Friends. The award can be found at http://www.adventurer-club.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30:feathered-friends&catid=6:grade-2&Itemid=16

MATH:

- Figure out the cost of one egg vs. a dozen or 18. Some even sell half a dozen. What is cheaper?

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Study different birds and their climates (Penguins – Antarctica)
- Research how carrier pigeons were used in the war. How the birds would only go one direction.

ART:

- Blow eggs out and paint
- Create cards for shut-ins by sketching, painting, coloring, or using edited photographs of pictures you took. Share memory verses you are learning with this unit.
- Make a paper crane
- Make a bird feeder or bird house

PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Take pictures of your observations during your nature study time
- Edit pictures via www.picnik.com or a computer program like paint or Photoshop for some artistic photography.

MUSIC:

- Learn some common songs (calls) of birds in your area and identify birds by their song.

HANDWRITING / COPYWORK:

- Rod and Staff's 4th grade handwriting book focuses on birds. Quotes to copy contain many interesting facts about birds. (cursive)

WRITING:

- Create a blog and focus on birds in one category. Use pictures or sketches and upload to site and blog a journal of your observations.
- Ask a 3rd grader to write a paragraph on birds and a 6th grader to write a page or more, the high schoolers will do a research paper on birds

FIELD TRIPS:

- Visit an aviary
- Visit a farm that raises turkeys, chickens, geese, game birds, etc.
- Visit the zoo, focus on the birds (take pictures or take along a nature journal and sketch a bird of interest that you see. Follow up with other nature journal activities at home).

GAMES:

- Birds of North America Memory Game
- Birds of Europe Card Game
- BirdSleuth Eastern Game Cards
- Bird Bingo Game
- The Great North American Bird Trivia Game

REFERENCES

Books:

- Elisabeth the Bird Watcher by Felice Holman (a fictional, but true to life story about creating a bird feeding area and watching the birds) (read aloud for K-2, reader for grades 3-4)
- Field Guides
- Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock

Magazines:

- Birds and Blooms Magazine

Videos:

Workbooks / Activity Books:

- Rod and Staff, Grade 4 student penmanship book. (Cursive, copywork is information about birds)
- In the Hands of a Child, Project Pack Birds (lapbook)

Websites:

- Olympic Birdfest - www.olympicbirdfest.org
- Project FeederWatch - www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw
- The Great Backyard Bird Count - www.birdsource.org/gbbc
- KidZone Geography (learn state birds, coloring pages) - www.kidzone.ws/geography/usa/index.htm
- eBird – www.ebird.org/content/ebird
- eNature (Birds and Birding, follow the links, has audio of bird calls) – www.enature.com/birding
- PBS – Seabird Survival Adaptation Game – www.pbs.org/kqed/oceanadventures/educators/pdf/OceanAdv-Seabird.pdf
- SOFIA – South Florida Birds, Memory Game - <http://sofia.usgs.gov/games/indexbirds.html>
- Simply for the Birds – nature quiz plus two charts to download <http://www.simplyforthebirds.com/page/birdfeedingchart>

4-H:

- 4-H has booklets that help children learn about raising chickens. (the work involved, the costs involved, etc.) Contact your local group for more information.

IPAD APPLICATIONS:

- Peterson Feeder Birds of North America

EXAMPLES:

(How to use the information above to fit your child)

To include your lesson plan, email it to adventisthomeducator@gmail.com

1) Where you would ask the 3rd grader to observe birds at a bird feeder and keep a list, the 6th grader would fill the bird feeder, keep a bird list and identify in field manual and the high schoolers would build the bird feeder, learn the scientific classifications and write a research paper and participate in Cornell University's Project Feeder Watch www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw . Just a small example of the many learning opportunities.