

AN ARTS AND CRAFTS CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: THE BIRDS IN MY COMMUNITY



This activity is for students and teachers who want to combine visual arts and the sciences. It shows that images are a very useful tool for the sciences! Visual expression may be the only communication tool in communities that does not use writing. This arts and crafts activity uses the local birds of the community and will help students develop a greater connection with nature while also giving them the opportunity to use their local knowledge. In addition, this activity shows that the environment is among the finest of laboratories!

PURPOSE: What art project will the students do?

Students and teachers will go on a bird observation walk near their school to investigate the birds that live in their community. They should think about how they know whether or not there are birds nearby. It may also be useful to have a discussion about how visual observation and listening are great tools in finding birds. As in the case of the Mapuche, the participants may be able to draw upon the meaning of birds by conversing with the wise men in their community. Like the Mapuche case, the participants might know, from the wise men of the community the meaning of the birds in that place.

Note: If you cannot leave the school, you can go outside and do the same activity (birds are everywhere).

We then created a large collective drawing, using paint to draw the students' favorite birds. The children then painted wings to symbolically carry messages of bird conservation to other places.

OBJETIVOS DE COMPORTAMIENTO

Knowledge: What facts, concepts or information will the students learn?

Children will be able to understand and recognize the importance of birds in the local Mapuche culture. They will come to view birds as messengers and will know the names of the birds in Mapudungun. An example of this is Trgl, which means Southern Lapwing. They will also learn the importance of color and drawing texture in drawing birds.

Skills: What new techniques will students use?

Painting – Using watercolor paints, the students will mix colors, work with an outline. They will also develop the skill of "listening to nature."

Attitude: What ethical issues will be discussed or learned?

In this class, the students will be able to recognize cultural differences and observe how the Mapuche culture is directly connected to nature and wildlife.

MOTIVATION: What will you show, do or discuss to get the class excited?

Show examples of past projects, engage with the local wise men, and walk through the local natural environment.

QUESTIONS:

How can you tell if there are birds nearby?

What birds are near the school?

What birds do you know?

What do the birds look like? What colors do they have?

How do birds communicate?

Is there anyone in your family who knows about the local birds?

MATERIALES:

Paint, Colored Pencils, Scissors, Feathers.