

Teacher Information Sheet

2nd Grade: Habitat

Students will learn about three different local birds, the American Kestrel, the California Towhee and the American Coot. They will learn about the basic elements of habitat: food, water, cover, space.

Take home materials:

1. Hand lens and feather
2. Worksheet packet: BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook
3. Local Birds brochure
4. Parks for Birding

Lesson elements

1. Students watch BSP video: Habitat, Introduction to SoCal Birds: https://youtu.be/Tg7L_FEAuy4
2. Students watch BSP video: Habitat: What Do Birds Need to Survive?: <https://youtu.be/a0B8r4kgyx8>
3. Students watch BSP video: Conservation: Albie hates Trash: <https://youtu.be/ZiK1vVXUgEc>
4. Outdoor Activity: Students go outside with their BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook and complete pages 1 through 6 and put any questions that come up on page 11.
 - a. Look for elements of habitat
 - b. Sound Map
 - c. Scavenger Hunt
 - d. Bird Search
 - e. Bonus: continue to complete the guidebook

Note: all the online tools that are mentioned on page 12 are free. *Merlin Bird ID* can be downloaded for free onto any smart phone and is great for use outside. Merlin allows the user to identify a bird by describing basic features, like size and color. Using the GPS information along with date and time, the app will propose a short list of possibilities. The user may also upload a photo for identification.

Allaboutbirds.org is an excellent and easy to use online field guide for all the birds in North America.

5. Bonus activities
 - a. Students listen to the Lorax Rap - <https://youtu.be/6bE1p7vwZjo> This story develops the idea that it is important that we care for our natural environment. Human activity can ruin a natural environment. Summary of themes here: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/7-lessons-lorax-about-loving-earth-and-more.html>
 - b. Students with hand lenses and feathers can watch: BSP Video: Feathers: How to Use a Hand Lens, https://youtu.be/dhgurT_DusI
 - c. Students practice using the hand lens on the feather. Then they go outside with their hand lens and examine flowers, leaves, rocks and whatever they find.

