

Creating a Bird Friendly Habitat

Grade Level: Pre-K- 1

Standards Addressed:
Science-
NS.K-4.3 Life Science

Language Arts-
NL-ENG.K-12.3 Evaluation Strategies
NL-ENG.K-12.11 Participating in Society
Character Concepts: Respect, Being a Good Neighbor, Kindness

Materials Needed:

- [*The Mountain Who Loved a Bird*](#) by Alice McLerran, illustrated Eric Carle
- Recycled materials to make bird houses (Options include):
 - *small boxes or juice/milk cartons
 - *sticks
 - *string
 - *masking or duct tape
 - *markers
 - *stickers
 - *scissors

Directions can be found at the following web sites:

<http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/feature/famf87project/famf87project06.html>

<http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/earthday/birds/house.htm>

http://www.ehow.com/how_4882487_build-birdhouse-kids.html

Procedure:

Opening Activity:

1. Ask students if they have ever heard the word habitat. Define the word for the students. (Habitat: The natural environment of an organism or a place where a person or animal is usually found.
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/habitat>)
2. Explain that habitats exist for all creatures and the habitat needs to have food, water, shelter, etc. in order for a person or animal to reside in the habitat. Ask students to describe their own habitat, or their home.
3. Introduce the story *The Mountain Who Loved a Bird* (showing the cover of the book) and tell the students that they will be learning about the habitat that a bird needs in order to be happy and healthy.

Lesson Body:

1. Read the book, *The Mountain Who Loved a Bird*, aloud. While reading ask students questions about the mountain and why it is not a good habitat for the bird at the beginning of the story.

Examples:

- 1) What is the mountain missing in order for it to be a good habitat for the bird?
- 2) What happens every time the bird visits the mountain?
- 3) How did the mountain's tears help to create a good bird habitat?



4) Do you think birds do help to plant seeds? (Describe how they can carry seeds and twigs from location to location.)

5) Point out some of the things at the end of the book that made the mountain a good habitat for birds. (Show last few pages of the book while students find things a bird needs in a good habitat.)

2. Ask students if they ever see birds their own backyards? Remind them that the birds need a safe and comfortable home, space to fly, food, and water in order to survive. Tell them that they can make their yard a friendly bird habitat by creating a bird house.

3. Model the steps in creating a bird house. (These will vary depending on the specific bird house instructions you choose.)

4. Pass out materials and work with students to create and decorate their bird house. You may wish to have the holes pre-cut or perforated in the boxes or cartons.

Closure:

1. Upon completion of the bird houses, remind students that all animals need a good habitat. Ask students to recall what items need to be available for an animal to have a comfortable habitat? (Shelter, food, water, safety, etc.) You may wish to show pictures of bird baths, plants, nests, etc.

2. Pass out and review instructions for hanging the bird house at home, referencing the fact that the house needs to be in a safe place. You may wish to use the instructions found at <http://www.multiscope.com/hotspot/bhcare.htm>.

3. Ask students to watch their bird house at home to see if any birds take up residence. Remind them that they should practice the three L's - look, listen, and leave them alone. Ask students to report any activity to the class.

Extension:

1. Create a bird feeder to help create an even better habitat for neighborhood birds. <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1746>

2. Provide families with information about the HSUS Urban Wildlife Sanctuary program. http://www.hsus.org/wildlife/wildlife_and_habitat_protection_programs/urban_wildlife_sanctuary_program.html

3. Ask students to learn about the habitats of other animals. A classroom bulletin board can be created showing various animals and their habitats. You may wish to use the information and coloring sheets found in the *Sharing Our World with Wildlife* Spanish/English coloring book. http://www.humanesocietyyouth.org/shoppingcart/AddToShoppingCart.asp?Prod_ID=NAH036