



Music | Education

GET TO KNOW
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GRAB N' GO ACTIVITY:
Bird Songs

OVERVIEW

Before Twitter, birds were the ones tweeting, not humans. Have your child discover the magical sounds of nature with this activity that lets him record an entire playlist of bird songs, calls, and chirps.

MATERIALS:

- Tape recorder with cassette or a smart phone recording app
- Internet with audio player
- Optional: binoculars



Submit your work to the Get to Know Contest for a chance to win wild prizes & go to

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SOURCED AND ADAPTED FROM:

- <http://www.education.com/activity/article/bird-songs-for-kids/>

- Beth Levin

Ages: 6 - 10

Time: 30 - 45 minutes

PROCEDURE:

- Step 1.** Research bird sounds on the Internet together to familiarize yourselves with what bird makes what sound. For example, a chickadee actually sings a song that sounds like “Chick-a-dee-dee-dee!”
- Step 2.** Help prepare a tape recorder or a smart phone so it will be ready to record bird sounds when you go outside.
- Step 3.** Explain some facts about bird sounds. Scientists categorize bird sounds into two main groups, “calls” and “songs.” Calls are when birds send alarm messages or alert other birds to their presence; all birds make calls. Songs are only made by certain types of birds known as songbirds. Songbirds use songs to recognize each other, claim an area for nesting, or to attract female birds.
- Step 4.** Take a walk to a nearby park, wooded area, lake, or other place where birds will be heard. The children can choose when to turn on (and off) the recorder as you begin to get in range of birds’ calls and songs. They may wish to record their own introductions to bird sounds.
- Step 5.** If they brought binoculars, they can try to spot the singing birds to help with bird sound identification. Head back and listen to the recording. Have your musical dj create a “playlist” to go with it, writing down their own special notes and observations about each song.