Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Watch Backyard Birds

Circle group

You can learn a lot by watching birds. You do not need to go far. Many birds visit a yard or a park.

First, find a quiet spot. Sit still. Speak softly. Birds fly away from loud noises and quick moves.

Next, look and listen. Look up in the trees. Look on the ground. Birds chirp, so listen too.

Then, notice the bird. What color is it? Is it big or small? What is its beak like? What is it eating? A notebook helps you remember. You can draw the bird or write a few words.

A bird book can tell you the bird's name.

Last, stay back. Do not chase a bird. Do not touch a nest. Be kind, and the birds will come back.

Questions

1. Where can you watch birds?

_____

_____

2. Why should you sit still and speak softly?

_____

_____

3. What are two things to notice about a bird?

_____

_____

4. How can a notebook help you?

_____

_____

5. Why should you not touch a nest?

_____

_____

Words to know

quiet: making very little sound
chirp: a short, high bird sound
notice: to see or pay attention to something
nest: a home that a bird builds for its eggs
beak: the hard mouth part of a bird

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Watch Backyard Birds

Triangle group

You can learn a lot by watching birds. You do not need to go far. Many birds visit a backyard or a park.

First, find a quiet spot. Sit still, and speak softly. Birds fly away from loud noises and quick moves.

Next, look and listen. Look up in the trees. Look on the ground. Birds sing and chirp, so listen for them too.

Then, notice what you see. What color is the bird? Is it big or small? What shape is its beak? What is it eating? A notebook helps you remember. You can draw the bird or write a few words.

You may use a bird book to find the name of the bird.

Last, stay back. Never chase a bird or touch a nest. Be kind, and the birds will keep coming.

Questions

1. Where can you watch birds?

_____

_____

2. Why should you sit still and speak softly?

_____

_____

3. What are two things to notice about a bird?

_____

_____

4. How can a notebook help you?

_____

_____

5. Why should you never touch a nest?

_____

_____

Words to know

quiet: making very little sound
chirp: a short, high bird sound
notice: to see or pay attention to something
nest: a home that a bird builds for its eggs
beak: the hard mouth part of a bird

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Watch Backyard Birds

Square group

You can learn a surprising amount simply by watching birds, and you do not have to travel far to do it. Plenty of birds visit a backyard or a nearby park.

To begin, find a quiet spot where you can sit still and speak softly, because birds tend to fly away from loud noises and sudden movements.

Next, look and listen carefully. Search the branches of the trees and the ground below them, and pay attention to any birds that sing or chirp.

After that, notice details about each bird you see. What color is it? Is it large or small? What shape is its beak? What is it eating? A notebook helps you remember what you observed, and you can either sketch the bird or jot down a few words. A bird book can then help you find its name.

Finally, keep your distance. Never chase a bird or touch a nest. If you are gentle and kind, the birds will keep coming back.

Questions

1. Where might you go to watch birds?

_____

_____

2. Why should you sit still and speak softly near birds?

_____

_____

3. What are two details to notice about a bird?

_____

_____

4. How can a notebook help a bird watcher?

_____

_____

5. Why is it important never to touch a nest?

_____

Words to know

quiet: making very little sound
chirp: a short, high bird sound
notice: to see or pay attention to something
nest: a home that a bird builds for its eggs
beak: the hard mouth part of a bird

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How to Watch Backyard Birds

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How to Watch Backyard Birds

Easier · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.2

1. In a yard or a park.
2. Birds fly away from loud noises and quick moves.
3. Any two of: its color, its size, its beak, what it eats.
4. You can draw the bird or write words to help you remember.
5. It could scare the birds or harm the eggs, so you should stay back and be kind.

Triangle: How to Watch Backyard Birds

This passage · 135 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. In a backyard or a park.
2. Birds fly away from loud noises and quick moves.
3. Any two of: its color, its size, the shape of its beak, what it is eating.
4. You can draw the bird or write words to help you remember it.
5. It could frighten the birds or harm the eggs and babies, so you should be kind and stay back.

Square: How to Watch Backyard Birds

Harder · 165 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. A backyard or a nearby park.
2. Birds tend to fly away from loud noises and sudden movements.
3. Any two of: its color, its size, the shape of its beak, what it is eating.
4. You can sketch the bird or write a few words to remember what you observed.
5. It could frighten the birds or harm the eggs and chicks, so you should keep your distance and be kind.