



Lesson Plan: Evolution and Birds (Outreach)

This exciting workshop, delivered in your school, can be used as an introduction to evolution, or as reinforcement of previous learning. Children handle and examine fossils, including a fantastic life sized replica Archaeopteryx. They take a close look at some of our stuffed birds, considering how they have evolved and taking into account variation, adaptation and natural selection. Children go on to design their own bird with its own adaptations. They discover how birds are living dinosaurs!



Activity Details Summary

Age Range: 10-11 (Y6)
 Duration: 2½ hours
 Location: Your school

Main Curriculum Links

Science: fossils, evolution, variation, adaptation, natural selection



Key Learning Objectives Children should learn...	Learning Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents to identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. <p><i>Other skills involved</i> Observation skills, dexterity, listening, responding, asking questions</p>	<p>All children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify at least one type of fossil explain what variation means give examples of behavioural and physical adaptations <p>Most children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify similarities and differences between Archaeopteryx and birds <p>Some children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discuss possible reasons for dinosaurs developing flight explain natural selection

Assessment for Learning

We assess learning using a variety of techniques appropriate to the activity such as: questioning, observing how well children are performing tasks, checking results, quizzes and feedback forms.

Ideas for extending learning before and after this activity

- Introduce evolution through the work of Darwin, looking at the ways humans have evolved, from early hominids to modern people
- Suggest a new genetic mutation which would benefit humans and how it could arise
- Investigate specific habitats and the ways in which animals have adapted to these environments
- Investigate the effect of loss of habitat on different animal species
- Make fossil casts; make models of how fossils looked as living organisms and research suitable habitats for these creatures