

ACTIVITY 6 Make a Bird Mask

Overview

Learn about the WMBD focal bird species and create a mask inspired by one of them. Discuss how each bird is impacted by plastic and ways that you can help reduce that risk. Use a bird identification guide to help inspire your mask.



Setup

If you plan to work with multiple ages, be sure you have a table that is appropriate for shorter participants. This activity can be messy, especially if you have lots of fun items that can be used to decorate the masks. Consider covering your tables with butcher paper to prevent stray marks from crayons, glue, and especially permanent markers.



Get Started

Mask making is an interactive and creative way to connect young people to birds. Using the 12 bird species on the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day poster, you can share the incredible diversity of feathers, beaks, and eyes as participants create their own masks. From the tall, long-billed Tricolored Heron to the tiny Prothonotary Warbler, the species illustrate the many ways birds find food, find mates, and more. To incorporate the conservation theme and the impacts of plastic pollution, integrate a conversation about plastics and how they affect birds. Participants may want to incorporate plastics into their masks to illustrate the topic.

Questions and discussion

Creating bird art requires focus and brings attention to details. While your participants are at work or after the activity, you can ask them:

1. Did you notice aspects of the bird's face that you did not see before?
2. Why did you choose this bird? What attracted you to this particular species?

DON'T FORGET

Post photos and share your creativity through social media.

OBJECTIVES

1. **To examine birds** in the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day artwork or in your area.
2. **To determine** the characteristics of birds.

AGES

Kindergarten - Adult

MATERIALS

- Mask • Scissors • Glue • Crayons • Markers • Paint
- Other decorative items • Popsicle sticks • String
- Bird identification guide • WMBD 2019 poster • Table

TIME

30+ minutes

BIRD MASK TEMPLATES

Don't want to make your own bird masks? Purchase pre-cut masks for a group or class at migratorybirdday.org/shop