

Backyard Books: *Noisy Bird Sing-Along*

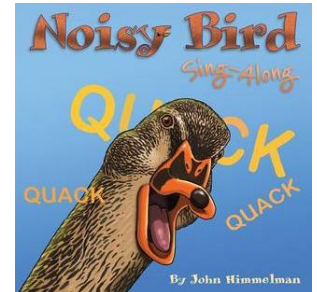
Background: This *Backyard Books* activity packet corresponds to the *Noisy Bird Sing-Along* book read-aloud video, which can be found here: https://youtu.be/trlo_tWyii8

This packet has been designed with preschool and elementary age children in mind, but contains aspects that can be enjoyed by older children and even adults.

During/after the book:

Ask your child questions to build curiosity and encourage discussion.

- Have you seen that bird before? Have you heard that sound before?
- Invite children to imitate the bird mnemonics. Explain that these are the words or phrases used to help us remember the sounds we hear.
- Do you think the real birds sound like the mnemonics?
- Why do you think birds make sounds? (to claim territory, attract a mate, general communication of food sources, danger of predators, etc.)
- What makes a bird a bird? What do each of these birds have in common? (feathers, beaks, wings, hatch from eggs)
- What do birds eat?
- Do all birds fly? (No) Can you think of a bird that doesn't fly? (Penguins & ostriches are well-known flightless birds)



Let's get outside!

***Whether in your backyard, from your porch or a window,
make the most of the green space you have to observe and enjoy!***

During Outdoor Time:

- Look for and listen for birds... what do you hear? Can you make up your own mnemonic for it?
- If you find a bird, be still and observe it. What is it doing? Is it on the ground, in a tree, flying, etc.? Keep a tally: <https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Bird-Watch-Tally-Printable.pdf>
- Look for other evidence of birds (feathers, nests, cracked seeds, bird droppings)

Follow-Up Activities:

- Younger children can strengthen cutting skills with this simple feather craft:
Cutting Practice Feather Craft
 - Draw or have child draw feather shapes on paper and cut them out.
 - Draw a midline down each feather shape.
 - Have children practice cutting slits along the feather margin, towards the midline.
 - Enjoy playing with your feathers!



- Bird life cycle coloring and sequencing activity for younger children:
<https://d3ddkge55ca6c.cloudfront.net/assets/t1464015858/a/ae/d5/lt-p-inp-101919.pdf>
- Color a Bird. Younger kids can simply color and older kids can hone their bird ID skills and get to know more about each species: <http://com-bbimages.s3.amazonaws.com/bbimages/PDFs/ColoringBook.pdf>
- Draw a bird picture from memory, your imagination, or from a photograph.
- Guided drawing of a Pileated Woodpecker:
<http://christineelder.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Woodpecker-How-To-Draw2.pdf>
- Observe birds through live bird-cams: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>
- Search information about birds and get help identifying birds you find: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>
- How to learn bird songs and calls: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/>
- Create a birding journal to keep track of your sightings. This can as simple or as detailed as desired, and it makes for a great family project as well. Here's a very simple, beginner template:
<https://docs.google.com/file/d/oB-cVjZBMBNNOEsZREF4X2pHWjg/edit>
- Create Egg-shaped seed feeders to attract birds to your yard:

Materials:

- ✓ 1 packet of gelatin (approx. ¼ oz)
- ✓ Bag of birdseed
- ✓ Twine
- ✓ Hot water
- ✓ Plastic Easter Eggs

Directions:

1. Prepare the gelatin mixture, according to the instructions on the packet. Next, mix the gelatin mixture with 6 cups of birdseed. Work quickly but mix the gelatin evenly through the birdseed.
2. Gently pack the mixture into both sides of the plastic eggs. Avoid packing too full, as this can hold moisture and cause the egg to fall apart. Close the eggs and set them aside to dry and harden overnight.
3. Once the eggs are dry you can hang them up or place them around your yard to attract birds for observing!

