

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Ralph W. Schreiber Hall of Birds, Grade 1

Gallery Description: The Schreiber Bird Hall features three walk through habitats and 27 interactive stations on bird biology. In the Bird Hall students can explore flight mechanics, anatomy of birds, adaptations and behavior, how the nests birds build are characteristic for their species, how the American Condor was saved from extinction, conservation and preservation of marshes, and rainforests.

Science Activities

- Gather students in front of the condors and ducks.
Ask the students to compare the shapes of their beaks.
Ask students what they think each bird eats. (plants or meat)

Language Arts Activities

- Have students walk through the rainforest area. Tell them to use their sense of sight and hearing to observe the rainforest.

Have students complete the following sentence frames:

"I see _____."

"I hear _____."

Math Activities

- Have students measure a bird's height by using the length of their hand.
Ask students, "How many hands are roughly equal to the bird." For example, the spotted owl is about 2 ½ hands (for a first grader) while the Trumpeter swan is about 6 hands tall.

These activities support the following 1st Grade California State Standards:

Science

Life Science 2d: Students know how to infer what animals eat from the shapes of their teeth (e.g., sharp teeth: eats meat; flat teeth: eats plants).

Language Arts

Speaking Applications 2.4: Provide descriptions with careful attention to sensory detail.

Math

Measurement and Geometry 1.1: Compare the length, weight, and volume of two or more objects by using direct comparison or a nonstandard unit.

Measurement and Geometry 2.2: Classify familiar plane and solid objects by common attributes, such as color, position, shape, size, roundness, or number of corners, and explain which attributes are being used for classification.