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Minnesota Birds
Science
K-1

Description: This mini-unit will give students a basic introduction to common Minnesota birds and should serve to start the students on a path toward greater knowledge in the future.

Faith Integration: During this unit, children will be learning about bird stories in the Bible. They will also be involved in discussions and activities in which they compare birds to people and how each is unique and special to God. Throughout the lessons the children will do activities that appeal to a variety of senses and learning styles because my goal is to reach each child in the best way possible for that individual.

Curriculum Benchmarks: This unit will meet the following NET standards: 1. Use input and output devices to successfully operate computers. 4. Use developmentally appropriate multimedia resources to support learning. 5. Work cooperatively and collaboratively with peers, family members and others when using technology in the classroom.

Materials Needed:

- *Kid Pix Deluxe 3
- *computer that will run Kid Pix
- *digital camera
- *various bird field guides
- *"The National Audubon Society Interactive CD-Rom Guide to North American Birds" published by Random House Inc.
- *My Bible Friends Vol. 3, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association
- *"Loon Magic for Kids" by Tom Klein published by Northword Press
- *bird seed mixture
- *Elmers glue and paint brushes
- *small sheets of poster board or tag board

Teacher Preparation: Create a slide show of bird photographs (common Minnesota birds) or make a collection of pictures on a disc. Arrange for a helper on Day 2. Purchase craft materials and collect books and software ahead of starting mini-unit. Make 4 templates for students to use in their slide shows. They will be: a loon to label and paint, a graph to list birds seen at their feeder, a list of 3 kinds of bird food and a picture that includes at least 2 birds that are mentioned in the Bible.

Student Preparation: Students will need to already know how use Kid Pix, including how to make a slide show in Kid Pix. Students will need to already know how to operate a digital camera (with assistance).

Procedures: (these activities will not necessarily be done on consecutive days)

Day 1: Read “Loon Magic” aloud to the children. Discuss the distinct markings of the loon and ask children if they have ever seen a loon, etc. Discuss that the Loon is the Minnesota state bird. Tell them that you have some other pictures of birds in Minnesota and show the slide show, inviting them to name any birds they recognize. Talk about the differences and compare the birds to how people are all unique and different yet special. Discuss what they think birds eat and together, look in books or even online to make a short list of kinds of bird food. **HOMEWORK:** Work with your family to make a simple birdfeeder (spread peanut butter on a pine cone and roll it in birdseed) and hang it somewhere in your yard. Keep track of how many birds come to feed from it and with help from a parent, take pictures of 5 different birds either at your feeder or in your yard. (Use a digital camera if you have one or use a disposable camera and send it back to school for us to develop)

Day 2: Read “Elijah and the Time of No Rain” (MBF vol. 3) to children and then ask if they know of any other bird stories from the Bible. Make a list of all the “Bible birds” they come up with. Discuss how God used birds and how He can use us. Use the Audubon CD to let children hear the calls of several common birds (easily recognized ones will be best and be sure to include the Loon). Let the children try to make the sounds and even imitate the birds. Show kids how to draw a simple outline of a bird and let them practice on scrap paper or the whiteboard. Then have them

make one on poster board in pencil and trace the outline in black marker. Using watered-down Elmer's glue, paint a small area of the outline and fill it with birdseed. Continue the process until the whole bird is filled. Have an assistant or parent work on this craft while you take the children's bird pictures and input them into the computer.

Days 3 & 4: Today children will take turns creating slide shows in Kid Pix Deluxe 3 (which they will have already learned about). They will open each template, add their information to it and save it by another name. Then they will make a slide show using their completed templates and their pictures (which have been downloaded for them to easily retrieve). They will have 5 different bird pictures from around their home and 4 other slides made from the teacher created templates.

Day 5: The students will take turns showing their slide shows to the class (parents could be invited, as well as other classes). They should name each bird in each of their 5 pictures and choose 2 of them to imitate the call. Then describe each of the other 4 slides. Finally, each student will receive questions and comments from the audience.

Assessment & Evaluation: Students will create a slide show in which they share their knowledge at the end of this unit. I will observe their work and presentation and also use the attached rubric to assess and evaluate.

Additionally, I will be observing throughout the unit how each child interacts and shares as we learn together and this will also be used in my evaluation of the students' progress.