

# Celebrate Birds!



## Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Learn that mapping can be applied as a tool to render information.
- Educate others about backyard birds.



## Method

Students will complete a creative master map that is a mural, map, exhibit, and display all rolled into one! The master map will integrate what students have learned about birds.



## Materials

- Large piece of newsprint or Bristol board
- Crayons, pens and pencils
- Supporting research material, such as graphs, illustrations, lists, or artifacts (e.g., bird's nests)

## Background

Maps are often used in stories, or are artistic interpretations of an area, such as an illustrated map. Although there are many different kinds of maps, they can be divided into three categories, as follows:

- **General-purpose Maps** don't emphasize any one feature. They show a general view of an area, including features such as roads, cities, and rivers.
- **Special-purpose Maps** usually show a small area as in ocean charts used for navigation.
- **Thematic Maps** zero in on a single, specific topic. They can represent just about anything, such as the distribution of bird nests in your county, where bird-baths and birdfeeders are located in your neighbourhood, which birds visit your yard, and where berry patches grow in your community.

Practically any information can be depicted on a map in as creative a fashion as you wish. They can be complex or simple, technical or creative. Maps are a flexible tool. They can help to organize material, research, and observations, or to pinpoint problems.

In this activity, mapping is employed to integrate what students have learned from other lesson plans involving bird observation and identification, and habitat awareness and improvement, into a large, mural-size display.

For additional resources visit:

[CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education)

## Activity

1. Tell the class that they will be creating a large, mural-size master map that integrates information from all their learning about birds.
  - The map may include research, survey findings, and artwork, and even their recommendations about birds and bird habitat.
  - The focus of the mapping activity can be whatever you choose.
2. With the class, brainstorm how they, as a group, could visually portray on a map some (or all) of their learning, research findings, and suggestions for ways to help backyard birds.
  - Younger students might take an artistic approach to their collective map by drawing different birds they observed in their schoolyard.
  - Older students might be inspired to integrate their information as the basis of an action plan to help conserve bird habitat.
3. Divide your class into groups of five and ask each group to create rough sketches of what the map could look like in the form of a display. Their display could include:
  - Music (tapes or CDs of bird songs)
  - Artifacts (feeders and nest boxes)
  - Pressed plants or seeds that benefit birds
  - Artwork
  - Books, guides, or pamphlets on birds
  - Interactive elements, such as a bird quiz or identification game
4. Remind them that they can use arrows on their map leading to side-bars to display various kinds of information: graphs, charts, of survey results, illustrations, inset maps of breeding areas and flyways, information on predators, lists of threats to bird habitat and suggested activities to help solve the threats.
5. Have groups present their rough sketches and vote for the ideas that appeal most.
6. Once the mapping display is complete, have students promote and celebrate it.
7. Display the project where people will see it, such as in a hallway, during an event, like parent-teacher night, or on another occasion that includes neighbours and friends.

## Extensions

- Create an educational product, such as databases, website, bird guidebook, or bird maps.
- Plan a habitat project.

For additional resources visit:

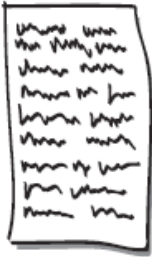
[CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education)

## Our Community Map for the Birds

Birds spotted in our Community

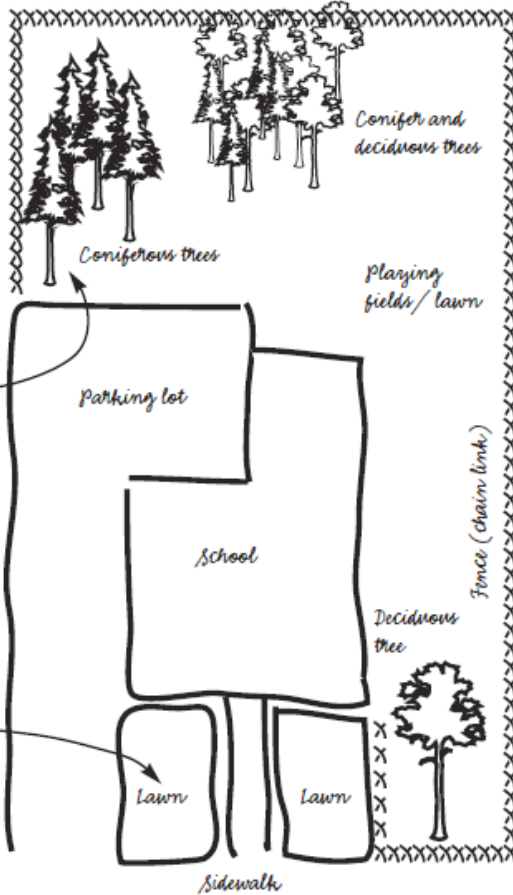


Our Bird Feeder Survey

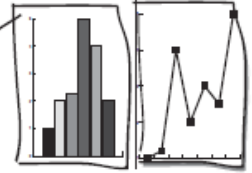


Future site of our "Garden for Birds" WILD School project

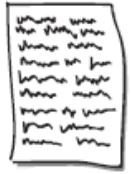
Check out [www.wildeducation.org](http://www.wildeducation.org) about funding and information



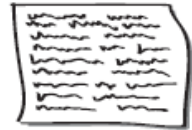
Our Community Bird Survey results



Our suggestions to help birds



Bird resources in our community



For additional resources visit:

[CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education)