

Title: Tweeting Tallies

Objective: Tally the number of bird calls heard

Time: 10-15 minutes

Materials Needed: Clipboards/hard writing surface for each student; pencil; scratch paper

Activity

Suggested Season: Summer, Fall or Spring

Suggested Grade Level: K-2

Indoors or Outdoors: Outdoors

Theme: Birds

Topic: Tallying

Directions:

1. Students sit or lay in an area where birds' songs can be heard.
2. Have students make a T-chart on their paper. Label one side "Birds Heard" and the other side "Birds Seen".
3. Have students make a tally mark in the appropriate column as they use their senses to *look* for birds.
4. If your students are experienced ornithologists (bird watchers), they can divide their paper into columns labeled with birds found in your area and tally each time they hear a specific species of bird.

Discussion Questions:

1. How many birds did you hear? What species?
2. How do you think the number would change if we were counting in different weather conditions? What about a different season? Why?

Variations:

Use the number of birds found to create simple addition and subtraction problems for your students (ex. 5 birds were sitting on a branch and 3 dove to the ground to find seeds. How many birds are left on the branch?)

Standards Addressed:

Science: 0.1.1.2.1.; 1.4.1.1.1.; 2.1.1.2.1.; 3.1.1.2.3.

Language Arts: K.I.B.; K.II.B.; K.III.A.; 1.III.A.; 1.III.B.1.; 2.III.A.; 3.III.A.2.; 5.III.A.2.

Math: K.1.1.1.; K.1.1.2.; K.1.1.3.; K.1.2.1.; 1.1.1.2.; 1.1.1.7; 1.1.2.1.; 1.1.2.3.; 1.2.2.1.; 1.2.2.4.; 2.1.1.1.; 2.1.2.2.; 2.1.2.5.; 2.1.2.6.; 2.2.2.1.

Social Studies:

Background Information:

- Minnesota is home to over 430 species of birds so make sure to research what types of birds can be found in your area.
- Weather conditions during spring, summer, and fall do not affect the amount of birds “singing”, however the rain will muffle the sounds.
- Seasons do effect how many birds you hear.
- The reasons that a bird “sings” is to attract mates, establish territory, warn and communicate with others in their group.
- The greatest amount of singing will be heard in the spring for all the above reasons; summer the second most; fall. In winter singing is greatly reduced due to migration and the fact that mating season has ended.

Additional Resources:

- www.holoweb.com
This website lists species of birds in Minnesota.
- www.audobon.org
Enter your zip code to see your local Birds Watcher’s Digest and to view a list of species of birds that have been spotted in your area.

Correlates with:

Greeting – Good Morning, Tweetie

News and Announcements – Charting Chirps