



School Program Name: Birds of Prey
Name of Sanctuary: Blue Hills Trailside Museum
Grade Level: 3-5
Location Options: At museum or outreach
Time: 1 hour
For more info: bluehills@massaudubon.org or
617 – 333 – 0690

Program Description

Students will investigate birds of prey, observe the adaptations that make these birds unique, and explain the roles raptors play in the environment.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Science and Technology
Strand: Life Science, Grades 3 – 5
Topic: Animal Classification and Adaptations

Learning Standards

Animal Classification and Adaptations

1. Classify plants and animals according to the physical characteristics that they share.
6. Give examples of how inherited characteristics may change over time as adaptations to changes in the environment that enable organisms to survive, e.g., shape of beak or feet, placement of eyes on head, length of neck, shape of teeth, color.
7. Give examples of how changes in the environment (drought, cold) have caused some plants and animals to die or move to new locations (migration).
8. Describe how organisms meet some of their needs in an environment by using behaviors (patterns of activities) in response to information (stimuli) received from the environment. Recognize that some animal behaviors are instinctive (e.g., turtles burying their eggs), and others are learned (e.g., humans building fires for warmth, chimpanzees learning how to use tools).
11. Describe how energy derived from the sun is used by plants to produce sugars (photosynthesis) and is transferred within a food chain from producers (plants) to consumers to decomposers.

Lesson Objectives

Students will know and be able to:

- Group birds of prey into scientific categories
- Give specific examples of adaptations of raptors
- Explain how these adaptations help the birds to survive
- Explain the role raptors play in the environment

Vocabulary

prey, predators, carnivores, diurnal, nocturnal, habitat, talons, beak, adaptations, raptor

Assessments

Students will demonstrate their understanding by:

- Defining “adaptation” and providing concrete examples of adaptations
 - Explaining the role birds of prey play in the environment
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Summarizer

Students will:

- Define “adaptation”
- Predict possible changes in the environment if there were no birds of prey

Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
 - Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
 - We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
 - We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.
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Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
 - Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
 - Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
 - A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
 - With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.
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Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.