

Birds of a Feather



Teacher's Guide

Topic:

Animal Reproduction

Grade level:

Middle School

Aligned Standards

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):

MS-LS1-4 *Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.*

Ocean Literacy Principles:

5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems

e. The ocean is three-dimensional, offering vast living space and diverse habitats from the surface, through the water column to the seafloor.

Program overview

What behaviors and structures are involved in animal reproduction? Focusing on local bird species, we will explore this topic and how they ensure reproductive success.



Activity at a glance

Students will focus on factors influencing reproductive success of birds. They will examine evidence and develop an argument regarding an Oregon coastal species.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe what successful reproduction is
- Explain how behaviors and structures impact a bird's reproductive success

Skills

Students will gain expertise in:

- Collaborating with other students
- Communicating reasoning
- Constructing an argument based on evidence

Program features:

- Facilitated educational experience in our classroom, learning about the reproductive behaviors of 4 native bird species.
- Self-guided exploration of the Aquarium

Extension activities

Use to facilitate further discovery before, during, or after your field trip to Oregon Coast Aquarium.

In the Classroom

Before coming to the aquarium and learning about parental care of young, teachers might want to introduce the topic with this option, where students learn about an earlier step in successful reproduction, mate selection. There are 2 main portions to this lesson: Bird Courting Displays and Choosy Females. In the first part, watch a video about bird courting displays, featuring both monogamous, equally adorned mates and polygamous birds with drab females and highly ornate males and discuss. In the second part, Choosy Females: student groups learn about the reproductive strategies for 1 of 4 Oregon marine species and share out with the other groups.

At Oregon Coast Aquarium

Broods and Babies Scavenger Hunt