

How to Use This Book

Welcome to *Substitute Teacher Solutions*, a collection of educationally-based, cross-curricular activities that are ready to use in any teaching situation. A variety of articles and non-fiction stories have been compiled that will appeal to students of all ages. This innovative book is designed to give the substitute teacher an excellent assessment system for measuring each student's progress with teaching material that meets the criteria for the National Education Standards objectives.

The articles have been selected to serve as a starting point for cross-curricular studies. Through writing, researching web sites, and answering geographic and math questions, it is possible to use the articles as either a quick break between other scheduled subjects or as complete, comprehensive units. They are also easily added to existing studies because of the wide variety of subjects covered and the many ways they can be related to most lesson plans.

At the end of each article is a *Branching Out* section, which is written specifically for the substitute teacher. This section contains ideas and suggestions for additional class discussion based on the original article content. Also provided are many opportunities for you to challenge those students who finish quickly or for the class that wishes to explore the subject in more depth.

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All articles in *Substitute Teacher Solutions* address the following National Standards:

Language Arts: NL-ENG.K-12.1, NL-ENG.K-12.4

Mathematics: NM-PROB.PK-12.2, NM-PROB.CONN.PK-12.3

Technology: NT.K-12.3, NT.K-12.5

Additional National Standards addressed are listed under each article title:



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Animals of the Sky

Chirp, chirp, chirp.

A soft sound is heard coming from high up in the trees. It's from a nest of birds!

There are more than 9,000 different kinds of birds. They fly across the sky during the day and at night. Birds can be seen in places all over the world.



The wings of a bird help it to fly. Most birds flap their wings to lift themselves off of the ground. Some birds, like the eagle, use their wings to soar through the air. Even though all birds have wings, some do not fly. The penguin and the ostrich are two birds that cannot fly.

Birds are great builders. They make nests in trees, bushes, and even on buildings. Some birds use twigs and grass to make their nests. Others use everything from bits of paper to old spider webs! These nests house the eggs that hold baby birds.

Birds do not have teeth. They must swallow their food whole. Birds have beaks to help them eat their food. Some birds eat seeds and fruit. Other birds eat insects. Certain birds even eat mice and small lizards!

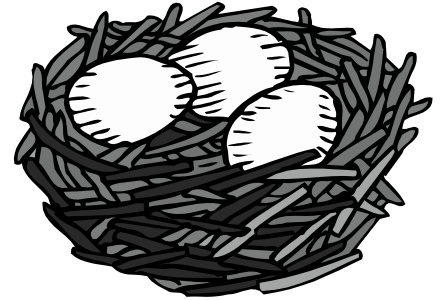
With so many kinds of birds in the world, it is very easy to find them in nature. Try to see how many birds you can find outside. There are probably more there than you think.

For the Teacher:

Show pictures of different birds, especially exotic ones like the peacock and the toucan. Have the students learn to recognize these birds when their pictures are shown. What are some of the similarities and differences between these birds?

What types of birds are native to your area? In what kind of habitat do they live?

Many bird species have anatomical differences that help them survive. Beak shape, claw shape, and wingspan are a few of these. How do these features differ between the species?



Name _____ Date _____

It's A Baby!

You've found a bird's nest with several baby birds in it. Draw a picture of what you found.

