

Lesson #4 Drawing Birds - Canada Geese, Ducks, Parrots

Grade Level 1-6



Description/Objective

Students draw the shape of the duck and fill in the feather textures. The finished drawings can be reduced for note cards and/or painted with watercolors.

Time

1 hour

Materials

Stuffed bird, photographs or reproduced copies of birds

8-1/2" x 11" white exact vellum bristol paper or white construction paper (1 per student)

#2 pencils and erasers (1 per student)

Feathers (1 per student)

Permanent non-toxic black fine tip markers (1 per student)

sample line drawing here

Procedure

1. Discuss and demonstrate on the board or overhead projector the shape of the duck's body and head. The body is a horizontal oval and the head is an oval. Make sure you leave room for the neck. The neck looks like a backward letter "C". Notice the small oval cheek shape. The eye sets on the cheek. The eye needs a light reflection spot. See drawing below.
2. The beak is a diagonal letter U. The legs are diagonal. Hold up three fingers. Keep down your little finger and thumb. This is the duck's webbed foot. It has three main toes. The web is curved up like a mountain.
3. Pass out paper and pencils and have the students draw all the shapes lightly with their pencil. This includes body, head, neck, legs, feet, cheek, eye, beak, and tail feathers.
4. Pass out a flight feather (large - from wing or tail) to each student. You can buy or find feathers. If you find the feathers, rinse in bleach water to kill insects. Explain different feathers. The head and neck are covered with over 6,000 very tiny pin feathers. The wings and tail are made of strong, large flight feathers. The shaft of the feather is made of keratin. It is lightweight and flexible. Our fingernails are made of this same substance. (So we are like a bird in many ways.) At the bottom of each feather is a fluffy feather called down. Down feathers keep the bird warm. On the surface are contour or color feathers. These feathers give the bird their characteristic colors.
5. After drawing all the shapes, add the texture of the feathers with the black thin markers.

Subject Matter Integration

SCIENCE: Use this same lesson to study other birds. Owls, penguins and parrots work well. This lesson would integrate well with a wetlands unit.

ART: Use this lesson to teach the basics of drawing - eyes, diagonals, ovals, shading.

LANGUAGE ARTS: Creative writing - a day in the life of a bird.

MATH/GEOMETRY: List all the different shapes included on a bird (oval, triangles, circles, etc.)

Variations/Extensions

1. Reduce the drawings by 50% and make black and white note cards.
2. Have students to watercolor or color their drawings with markers.
3. For younger students, draw and then cut out a black duck silhouette. Using cotton swabs, have the students paint the feather textures with white, gray and brown tempera.