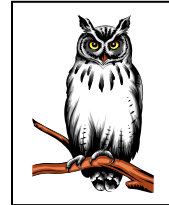


Bird Brains

Pre-class Activity



Introduction: The students will soon be taking the Bird Brains class that allows them to learn more about our friends in the sky. Before taking the class, it is great to see what the students know by developing a “Knowledge Cube”.

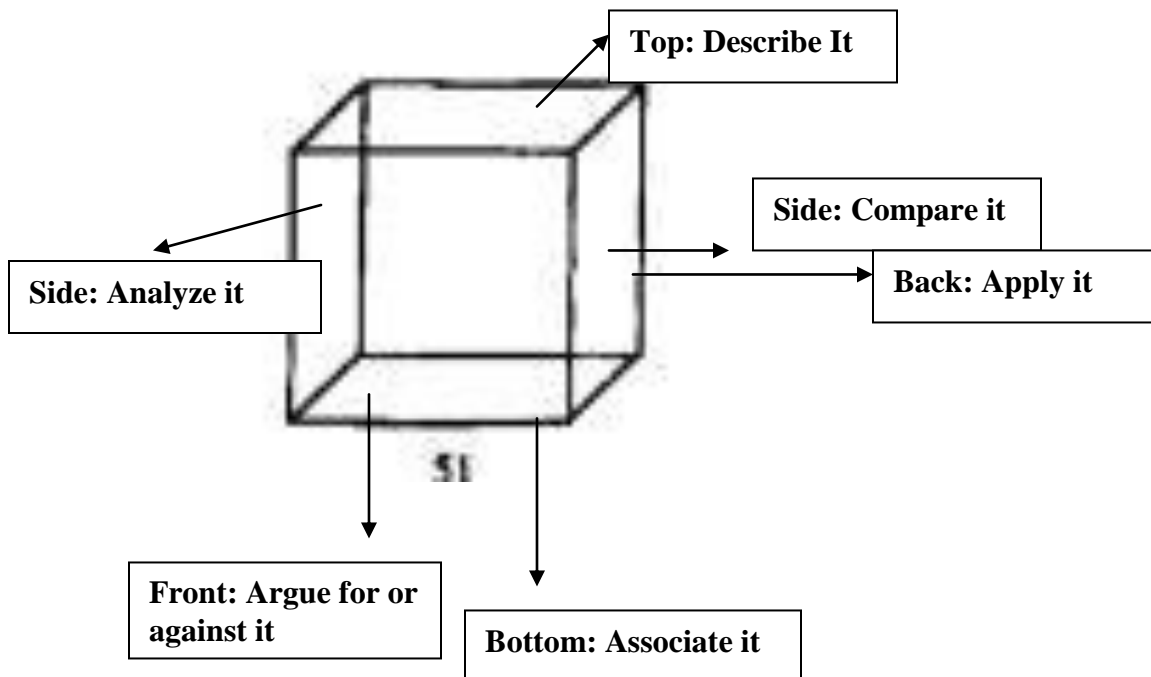
Materials: construction paper, markers, staples/glue

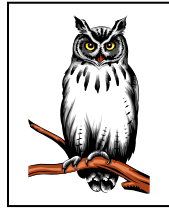
Directions:

1) Give each pair of students 6 squares of construction paper. Explain to them that they will be making a “Knowledge Cube” that will be asking them to examine the topic “birds”. Each side of the cube is going to be dedicated to examining the topic.

- > *Describe it* (including its colors, shapes, and sizes)
- > *Compare it* (what is it similar to or different from?)
- > *Associate it* (what does it make you think of?)
- > *Analyze it* (tell how it is made or what it is composed of)
- > *Apply it* (what can you do with it? How is it used?)
- > *Argue for or against it* (take a stand and list reasons for supporting it)

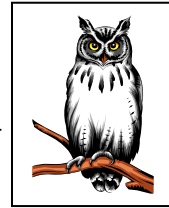
Tell the students that when they work on the cube they must think about birds in general. If they would like to put examples of birds to help explain their ideas that would be good.





Bird Brains

Post-class Activity



Who's That Bird??

Materials: Bird identification field guides, 3”X5” index cards, black construction paper

Directions:

- 1) Tell students that they are going to create a bird-identification challenge game for their classmates. Explain that each student will work with a partner to select a bird from a field guide, create a silhouette of the bird, and challenge classmates to identify it. Encourage students to select familiar birds from your area.
- 2) Give each pair of students the opportunity to use a field guide. Instruct them to choose a bird and write the common name of the bird on the chalkboard. If more than one pair chooses the same bird, ask students to select alternatives so that each pair has a different bird. Make sure when the students are choosing birds that they are choosing a variety. (For example: blue jay, owl, vulture, finch, etc...)
- 3) Have students write on index cards the common and scientific name of their bird and a description of their bird's physical and behavioral characteristics. (They can find this information in the field guides.)
- 4) With black construction paper, have the student draw an outline of their bird. Make sure that they emphasize the beak, any special markings, colors and feet. Have them tape their index card to the back of their bird outline where it can't be seen.
- 5) After all students have outlines their birds and placed their cards on the back, have the students go around and try to guess what type of birds were picked. It would be a good idea to have all the birds numbered and the students can write their guesses in order. If the students can't guess the name of the bird then have them try to guess what they eat, where they live, and any oddities.
- 6) Come together and have a guessing discussion!