

Activity: Bird taboo game

Learning objectives

- To illustrate some key features of native birds.
- Excellent communication activity.

10-15
mins

KS1
&2

Teacher preparation

Cut and laminate role cards.

Equipment & resources

A series of taboo cards that can be handed out to pupils (see below).

Main activity

1. This activity can be done as a whole class or you can split the class in to smaller groups.
2. Give a pupil or one member of the group a taboo card. Ask them not to let anyone else see their card.
3. Ask the pupil to take on the role of the bird on their card. Ask them to read the information on the card sentence by sentence. See if the rest of the group can guess who they are? If they don't get it straight away give more clues or act out the character. **Do not** use the taboo word(s) at the bottom of each card.

Activity: Bird taboo game



Taboo word: Magpie

I am a jack of all trades, scavenger and predator. My challenging, almost arrogant attitude has won me few friends. With my noisy chattering, and long tail, there is nothing else quite like me. Be careful not just to spot one of me or you'll have bad luck for the rest of the day.



Taboo word: Robin

I'm everyone's favourite bird. Both we boys and girls look the same. I sing nearly all year round but most people think of me in winter where you can see me everywhere especially at Christmas. Despite my cute appearance, I can be aggressively territorial and are quick to drive away intruders.



Taboo word: Mallard

I have a long body and a long and broad bill. The boys have a dark green head and a yellow bill and the girls are mainly brown with an orange bill. I love the water and when it rains people think its perfect weather for me. I can be found almost anywhere near water and I love all the bread people bring me.



Taboo word: Barn owl

With my heart shaped face, buff back and wings and pure white under parts I am a distinctive and much loved night-time bird. I used to live in farm buildings and in hollowed out trees, but these things are all disappearing and I'm struggling to raise my young. I love to eat mice and voles, even rats when I get them, which has made me the farmer's friend.



Taboo word: Blue tit

My feathers are a colourful mix of blue, yellow, white and green and make me one of the most attractive resident garden birds. Almost any garden with a peanut feeder will attract me and I readily use the nest-boxes people kindly put out for me to use.



Taboo word: Kingfisher

I'm small and unmistakable with my bright blue and orange feathers. My long sharp beak is perfect for catching my prey. I can be found around slow moving or still water. I fly fast and low over water, and hunt fish from riverside perches, occasionally hovering above the water's surface.