

Falconer activity 2 **Falcon gallery**

**Age
range:**
7-11

Duration:
Approx 60 mins for
research and 90 minutes
for artwork

Aim

For pupils to learn about the individual birds of prey that falconers work with by creating paintings and information panels about them.

Learning objectives

Pupils should learn:

- About the types of birds of prey that falconers work with
- Facts about the birds such as size, habitat, prey and behaviour
- How to paint wildlife pictures based on illustrations and photos



Curriculum links

England

- National Curriculum Science: Sc2 5b, 5c
- Art and Design: 1c, 2c
- ICT: 1a, 1c

Wales

- Science: Skills – Communication 1, 2, Planning; Range – 5, 6
- Art: Skills – Understanding 1, 2 Investigating – 1, 2, 3, Making 1, 2
- IT: Skills – Find and analyse information, 1, 2, 3 Range – 1, 3, 4

Materials and equipment

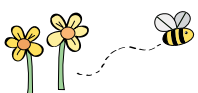
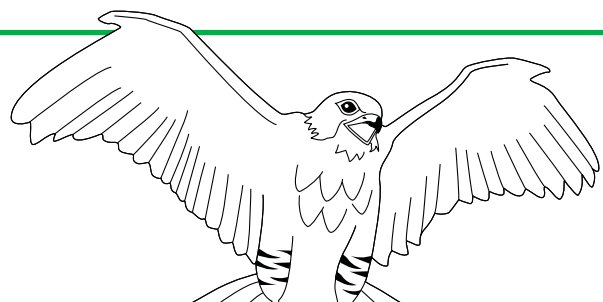
- Rough books and pens/pencils
- Art paper for drawing or painting, A3 or larger
- Various media for painting or drawing such as pastels, water colour paints or powder paints; brushes, water, mixing palettes.
- Copies of Worksheet Fa1 (one per pupil if required – see below)

Preparation

Pupils will need access to information books, reference materials and the Internet to carry out research. Art materials will also need to be prepared for pupils to draw or paint the birds. Choose about 10 birds of prey (used by falconers) for the pupils to research – this information can be found on the Countryside Investigators website.

Key vocabulary

falconer, falconry, falcon, hawk, bird of prey, research, fact, habitat, behaviour, prey



Running the activity

a) Introduction:

Go to **Country estate > Falconer** and show the pupils the **Falconer video**. Direct them to **Country estate > Falconer** to read through some of the information about falconry. If needed, show pupils how they can find information about the falcons and hawks used by falconers, using various other information sources such as the Internet and books.

b) Groups:

Assign a different bird to separate groups of pupils, so that they can share resources. Explain that the pupils are going to create a 'falcon gallery' of large pictures of birds of prey, each with an information label underneath. Pupils will therefore need to find good photos or illustrations of their bird, plus facts and information.

Older and more able pupils might like to first study some wildlife artists or photographers and copy their styles when painting or drawing.

c) Organise:

Using **Worksheet Fal2** pupils find and organise their facts and create an information panel to go with their picture. The facts can be written onto neat labels by hand or using ICT to create attractive information panels for the display, to go underneath each picture.

d) Exercise:

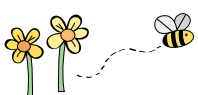
Pupils can make paintings or drawings, using photos or illustrations from books or printed images from websites. Pupils can sketch first and then paint or use pastels to create large, bold pictures. A selection of pictures for each bird can then be framed, labelled and displayed along with the information panels made by the pupils.

Extension activities

- 1 Pupils create 'old master' style fancy 2-D frames for their paintings using gold foil paper to give the pictures a gallery feel. Dark backgrounds are also very effective at creating this look.
- 2 Birds of prey have traditionally been greatly admired, particularly the eagle. Discuss why this is and ask pupils if they can come up with examples of where birds of prey are used in various areas of culture (e.g. coats of arms, titles of films and books, badges, names of teams).
- 3 Birdwatchers travel all over the countryside to watch birds of prey. Show the pupils some videos of falcons and hawks flying, hunting and feeding their young. Ospreys catching fish are particularly impressive. Web videos can be found by typing search terms such as 'Osprey video' into a search engine or by looking on sites such as the BBC or Youtube.

Background information for teachers

Go to **Teachers > Useful links** to find out more about falconers and their work.



Fal2: Falcon facts

This sheet will help you to find facts about the bird of prey you are going to paint or draw. With the facts, you can make an information label about the bird so that people can learn more about it.

For your picture you also need to find a good photo or illustration to copy.

Sources of information:

- Books about birds
- Encyclopaedias
- Websites

Tips

1. Use the indexes in books to look for your bird.
2. Encyclopaedias are in alphabetical order.
3. With the Internet, use a search engine such as Google and type in searches like 'goshawk facts' or 'peregrine information children' (the word 'children' will help you to find pages that are easier to read).

Facts to find

Name of bird:

Size:

Habitat (where it lives):

Lifespan (how long it lives):

Prey (what it eats):

Behaviour:

