ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

CLASSES 3 TO 5

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ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY TREAT AND TWEET

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

PG. 2

Aims & Objectives

PG. 3

Project Scope

PG. 4

Project Stages

PG. 5

Tools, Resources & Tips for Students



When you look out your windows, what do you see? Too often, the answer is Sparrows, Indian Mynas, black crows and ravens, Noisy Miners, or only a few types of birds. However, sometimes we hardly see any bird. This is because at times our gardens and our house structures do not seem very welcoming to these birds. Our gardens do not provide the habitat that birds need. Our garden may not have many plants of different heights and densities for birds of different sizes to hide in.

"Treat & Tweet" is an Environment & Sustainability project. Sustainability is an important concept in environmental education and discussions about the future, but what does it really mean, and how can we learn about sustainability in ways that inspire us to make conservation-conscious choices? The environment and sustainability projects of Beaconhouse explore how our actions affect the environment and identify, using collaboration and research, different ways in which we can contribute towards preservation of the environment, even if at a small scale.

"Treat & Tweet" project provides an opportunity to students to collaborate across different cultures, research, and learn how everyday activities and small changes can lead to an improvement in different environmental aspects, whether its biodiversity and nature, water, energy, or climate change. This project has been designed to engage classes 3-5 students in understanding biodiversity through monitoring birds. It helps in building knowledge and skills across Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Arts and English and gets students outdoors and connecting with nature.

It is an exciting project that allows students to research and learn about the importance of habitat for different species of birds. By making the garden a friendly place for birds, students will create a good habitat for the birds to live, feed and nest in. When birds fly from place to place in search of food, shelter and nesting trees, they have an easier task ahead of them.

LET'S TOGETHER BUILD, TREAT AND TWEET!



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- develop an understanding of different birds found around our homes
- identify different species and varying habitats across different countries
- explore different elements of the habitat that are similar or different for different species of birds.
- examine the impact of climate change and geographical locations on different species or birds.
- identify ways to support the different habitats
- promote awareness in the communities and reach out to the wider world

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

PROJECT AIM

The project aims to explore the factors like temperature, humidity, climate, soil and light intensity play in the everyday lives of different species of birds. The project aims to allow every student participating in this project to build a habitat for birds in their backyard/garden using resources available at home. This project will create a better awareness and understanding in students of the importance of different habitats for different species of birds and will provide a positive and fun experience of learning about their local environment through collaboration and cross-cultural exchange





PROJECT SCOPE

Students will work in groups based in different cities/countries. Students will investigate the different habitats found around their garden for birds. For this, they are required to research and share ideas amongst the group on how to create these habitats. They will collaborate, research, build and monitor how similar habitats in different locations (different cities and countries) attract different species of birds.

Participation: All Beaconhouse Schools, national & international

Class/year level: The project is designed for students of class 3-5 between the ages of 8-10

Duration: One month (4th May-4th June, 2020)

Language: English

Project's final outcomes can be in any form, for example:

- Presentations
- Video documentary
- Photographs
- Theatre/ short film

Final outcome will be shared via virtual exhibition, details of how to participate in the virtual exhibition will be sent to the schools



PROJECT STAGES

STAGE 1-MEET & GREET

- In stage one, school appointed project coordinators will arrange an introductory meeting using online video conferencing tools. Group members will introduce themselves and get to know each other. They will discuss and plan the project.
- Group members will assign tasks related to research and reading about the birds in different cities and climates.
- All the online collaboration will be done with consultation of the participating schools. A school appointed point person has to be present during all online meetings and must be copied in all written exchange between the group members.
- in the next stage, they will research about the most popular birds in their respective areas and cities. The research, along with pictures will be shared via an online whiteboard/ padlet or other sharing tools.

STAGE 2-PLAN

- Students will observe the birds that are seen in their garden and take pictures/videos and record their observations. These will be shared with the group.
- Students will decide how they can create different habitats in their homes by identifying which climatic conditions in different cities of their residence will attract certain species of birds if proper habitat is provided.

STAGE 3-BUILD & TREAT

- An online conference will be planned between the group members residing in the same city. Same city residents will decide which birds they will focus on and divide them amongst themselves. They will start planning the changes they will make in their gardens to attract those birds, in light of the research on their habitats.
- These decisions will be shared in another online meeting between all members from different cities. Feedback will be taken from each other.

STAGE 4-OBSERVE & TWEET

- Students will observe and record (using pictures and videos) whether the birds were attracted to their habitat. How did they behave? Did they visit frequently? What changes did they make to attract more birds? They will compare their notes with other members to find out the behavior of different species in different climates and different conditions. Students can record using written notes, audio recordings, video recordings etc. (whichever mode is convenient for them).
- School coordinators will make a twitter account for the project and tweet the videos and latest findings to reach the wider community and spread awareness. The evidence of this will be presented in the final outcome.

STAGE 5-SHARE & CELEBRATE

Group members will collaboratively design their final outcome in any form that they select after collaborative discussion. This final outcome will be uploaded by the schools on the online platform by 4th of June. Instructions to upload will be sent to the schools.
Students will also share their reflections on their experience working as a group on the online collaborative project.



TOOLS, RESOURCES & TIPS

ONLINE COLLABORTION TOOLS:

Groups can collaborate only under the supervision of school appointed point person (a senior member of school leadership team or a teacher). Any team that collaborates in absence of a school personnel will be disqualified and their project will not be accepted. Students and schools are advised to follow Beaconhouse E-Safety policy.

Some of the recommended tools are listed below:

- Skype,
- Google Hangout,
- Google classroom,
- Google drive,
- Wix.com (free website builder),
- iMovie maker,
- collaborative online whiteboards like Twiddla (www.twiddla.com) and Vyew (vyew.com),
- Bubbl.us (Bubbl.us),
- Edmodo (<u>edmodo.com</u>),
- Wikispaces (<u>wikispaces.com</u>),
- Cacoo (<u>cacoo.com</u>),

And any other tool approved and selected by the school.

HELPFUL READINGS AND RESOURCES:

- <u>https://www.motherearthnews.com/nature-and-environment/make-your-garden-a-bird-habitat-zmaz01jjzsel</u>
- <u>https://www.habitatnetwork.org/Creating%20small%20bird%20habitat.pdf</u>
- <u>https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/habitats-for-birds/</u>
- https://wildbirdrevolution.org/top-25-birds-of-asia/
- <u>https://www.ecologyasia.com/verts/birds.htm</u>

TIPS FOR THE GROUP MEMBERS:

- Allow for varying levels of participation.
- Assign roles to help ensure that no one person is overburdened with all aspects of the project.
- Work within the rules and boundaries set by the school.
- Identify achievable short-term goals. Completion of small steps can create enthusiasm for future steps
- Respect the views and opinion of all members of the group
- Keep in mind, at the end it's a collective responsibility, you are not competing with your group members