

Lesson 1 of 4: What is a Curlew?

EYFS, Ks1&2 Science SEN: May need extra adult support.

Learning objectives:

- Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets)
- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are well suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other

Learning Outcomes:

- To identify where a wading bird lives.
- To know the characteristics of a bird.
- To identify a curlew and name its adaptations.

Key Vocabulary

- Curlew
- Bill
- Wading
- Camouflage
- Habitat
- Adaptation (Ext.)

Key Questions:

- What kind of animal is a curlew?
- What features tell you it's a wading bird?
- Where do curlew live?
- What is a habitat?

National curriculum links

Science, English, Maths and Art.

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amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets)

Equipment

- Printed colouring sheet
- Colouring pencils/pens/ crayons.
- Word bank
- Toys
- Sand tray
- Tweezers
- Printed photo of a curlew.

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Introduction (10mins)

- Curlew Country is a group based in Shropshire and Wales who are working to help a special bird called the Curlew. Has anybody heard of or seen a Curlew before?
- (Show pictures of a Curlew): curlewcountry.org/curlewcam
- A Curlew is a wading bird, which is a type of bird that likes to spend time in water, it has long legs so that it can walk through the shallow water looking for food. It also has a really, long curved bill; can anybody guess why? These things are called adaptations.
- They use that wonderful long bill to search the wet mud or sand for food.:
- Sadly, Curlews have not been doing so well in the wild. In places where we used to see lots, we are seeing less and less.

Main Activity (30mins)

- Activity. EYFS, Ks1: Finding items in wet sand using tweezers, tools or hands and evaluating which works best and talking about why. Cross-curricular link speaking and listening. Extension: Record findings.
- Activity: Ks1&2: Curlew Colouring, Drawing a curlew and label parts.
- Show photos of Curlews for references to colours.
- Colour in and label the parts of a curlew on the picture below, you can look at the photos to help you choose colours! Can you name your Curlew? What do you think it uses all the parts you've labelled for? Why does the bird have these colours and pattern?
- (Line drawing of Curlew)
- Curved Bill - For finding food, Key words, bill, adaptation
- Long legs - for wading: Key word, Wading What does 'wading' mean?
- Wings - for flying
- Speckled feathers - for keeping hidden Key word, camouflage.
- Tail - to help steer when flying
- Large feet - for walking on soft mud and water cross curricular science, why do they need big feet?
- Eyes - for looking for danger

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Additional Activity

Who has the best camouflage?

This can be in small groups alongside other activities.

Ask what camouflage might mean and find out if children have seen 'camouflage' design on clothing or in the news. Ask why it might be used. Curlew camouflage helps them blend in to the grasslands they nest in - making them difficult to find! This helps keep them and their nests safe.

Adult to hide toys; matching their colours to backgrounds with some not matched so they stand out.

Children to investigate and record which are most easily found and suggest why this might be.

The information could be recorded on a whole class pictograph, graph or chart.

Students will: Be able to identify that a curlew is a bird with adaptations.

Teacher will: Prepare resources, guide lesson and support.

Less able students will: Know that a curlew is a bird and name some adaptations.

More able students will: Know that a curlew is a wading bird and be able to name, describe and explain some adaptations.

Adaptions for less able students: Provide one to one support and encouragement

Extensions: Write a sentence to explain the adaptations.

Plenary (10mins): Peer review children's work, discuss curlew adaptations

Assessment criteria: Children can identify a curlew and its adaptations

Assessment Methods

Questioning

Group discussion

Peer discussion

Labelled and

coloured drawing

Ext. Written work

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Curlew Country

Label the
Curlew Body Parts



Curlew Body Parts

Labelling Activity

Read through the following body parts and their descriptions and see if you can label the Curlew picture

Body Parts

Description And Purpose

BILL

The curlew has a long and curved bill to search the ground for food (insects).

HEAD

Curlews have white chins and a brown speckled upper throat. The rest of the head is brown with darker brown streaks

WINGS

Curlews, like most birds, have wings and they use these when migrating between their summer habitat (grassland) and their winter habitat (wetland).

LEGS

Curlews are a wading bird, meaning they have long legs allowing them to walk through deep water.

TAIL

Birds use the tail as a counter-balance as they land and as a means of balancing when they walk/hop on the ground or when perching.