

**BIRD EXPLORATION: K-2 Instruction Guide**

This activity focuses on animals that love to eat bugs: Birds! You’ll be learning all about bird feathers and then you can head outside to spend some time looking for your own and watching bird behaviors.

Birds have **feathers** on the outside of their body. Feathers are important for more than just flying. Feathers help birds:

- **Stay warm**,  
- **Keep clean**,  
- **Hide from predators**, and  
- **Sometimes even attract friends**

You can tell a lot about a bird just by looking at the color of its feathers. Bright feathers help birds stand out. Dull feathers help a bird blend in to their surroundings. When you head outside, try to find a feather. Is it bright or dull? Would your bird’s feathers help it to attract friends or hide from predators?

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Birds are important animals in nature! They help control insect populations, spread seeds, and pollinate flowers. If you’ve never stopped to watch a bird, you’re in for a real treat. The other side of your worksheet will help you learn about the different behaviors you might see as you become an **ornithologist** (that’s a person who studies birds) in your neighborhood!

**Bright Feather:**

![Bright Feather Image]

**Dull Feather:**

![Dull Feather Image]

Draw a bird in the box below. It can be a bird you see or a design of your very own.

Circle what describes your bird:

- My bird’s feathers are:  
  - Bright  
  - Dull

My bird likes to:

- **Fly**  
- **Sing**  
- **Eat**

Bird Feathers:

- Did you know birds can repair their own feathers? There are very tiny little hooks, called **barbules**, that hold the feathers together. If the feather splits, birds can “zip” the edges back together. Give it a try if you have a clean feather!

All done? How many different types of birds you can find around your neighborhood?