



Kirtland's Warbler Classroom Activities - JK to Grade 2

Bird and Habitat Matching Activity

Description: Everybody needs a place to live. Different types of birds live in different places. You might find a loon living in a lake or a pigeon living in the city. The Kirtland's Warbler is a tiny bird. It's really picky about where it lives. They need to build their nests in pine trees that are still very short. If the trees are too young or too old, the birds can't live there. People are helping this bird by making sure that it has the right kinds of trees, so it has a good place to live. Can you match up all of these birds with the different places where they live?

Instructions:

1. Print and cut out bird and habitat photos (included on a separate PDF document)
2. As a class, have your students see if they can match up the different birds with the different habitats.
3. Ask your students why the different birds might live in these places. Are the things they like to eat found there? Do these places help keep them safe? Do they have special adaptations to help them live there?
4. Show your students the picture of the Kirtland's Warbler in the Jack pine forest. Connect it with the activity matching birds to their habitats ("homes"). Explain that this particular bird is very picky about where it lives, and that people need to help it to make sure it has the right home to live in.

Inquiry-based Learning Questions:

- What kind of birds have you seen?
- Where have you seen wild animals?
- Can you think of any other places where animals live?
- What's your favourite animal? Where does it live?

Learning Outcomes:

Different birds have different habitats where they live. They need to live there because that's the place that keeps them safe and has the food they like to eat. The Kirtland's warbler is very picky about where it likes to live. People are helping it by making sure it has the right home (habitat).

Possible Student Questions:

- Q: Why doesn't the bird just live somewhere else?
- A: You wouldn't ask a fish to live on dry land, would you? How would you like to live in the middle of Antarctica? Every animal has a different home where it's supposed to live. The food they need to eat and the things they need to keep them safe are found there. Some animals like pigeons and raccoons can live in a lot of places (generalists) The Kirtland's Warbler is just very picky (specialist).
- Q: What does the bird like to eat?
- A: Mostly bugs! The Kirtland's Warbler eats things like beetles, wasps, ants, and caterpillars. They like to eat some berries too, like blueberries.
- Q: How are people helping this bird?
- A: The Kirtland's Warbler only likes to make its nest in two different types of pine tree. They're called the Jack pine and the red pine. People are planting forests with these two types of trees, and lots of other good plants from around here. These plants help give food to the bugs that the Kirtland's Warbler likes to eat. Lots of other animals like snakes, birds, and butterflies like these same habitats. It's good for everyone!

Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program (2016):

- Problem Solving and Innovating:
exploring the world through natural curiosity, in ways that engage the mind, the senses, and the body;
- making meaning of their world by asking questions, testing theories, solving problems, and engaging in creative and analytical thinking;
- the innovative ways of thinking about and doing things that arise naturally with an active curiosity, and applying those ideas in relationships with others, with materials, and with the environment.

Grade 1:

- B. Life Systems - Needs and Characteristics of Living Thing
- B1. Relating Science and Technology to Our Changing World - assess the importance of a healthy environment for living and non-living things, and the responsibilities of humans in contributing to a healthy environment
- B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts - demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs and characteristics of living things, including humans

Grade 2:

- Life Systems - Growth and Changes in Animals
- B1. Relating Science and Technology to Our Changing World - assess ways in which animals have an impact on society and the environment, and ways in which human activities have an impact on animals and the places where they live
- B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts - demonstrate an understanding that animals grow and change and have distinct characteristics

Additional Resources:

- [Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust](#)
- [Kirtland's Warbler – All About Birds \(Cornell Lab of Ornithology\)](#)
- [Kirtland's Warbler – American Bird Conservancy](#)
- [Kirtland's Warbler – BioKids \(University of Michigan\)](#)