

Session title	Bird ID challenge	
Key Q	Which birds live in a wetland?	
Session description	Launch your own bird spotting enquiry from our Discovery Hide, specially designed with children in mind. Learn how to use binoculars, record findings and work scientifically, observing and identifying wetland birds according to their key characteristics. Which birds do you think you'll spot and how might they be adapted to their habitat?	
Key Stage suitability	KS2	
Duration	60 minutes	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science Year 4 Living things and their habitats - Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways - Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment Year 6 Living things and their habitats - Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals - Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics Evolution and Inheritance - Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents		
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners	
	Will be able to use binoculars Will be able to recall the names of some wetland birds Will be able to describe one or more wetland birds Will understand some of the visual adaptations used to identify birds.	Will be able to explain the importance of monitoring bird populations	
Key vocabulary	Hides Specimens Habitat Observing	Adaptations Identifying Classifying Plumage	Species Populations Migration Behaviour

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question: Which birds live in a wetland? We explore the importance of staying quiet when in the bird hides so as not to disturb the birds.	
Activity 1: Contrast and compare bird species with specimens	10 mins
Learners investigate differences between bird species using specimens, looking at their key features.	

Activity 2: Equipment briefing	5 mins
Learners are shown how to use binoculars and given information on what to look for.	
Activity 3: Observation and recording	25 mins
Learners will use their equipment and logbooks to record observations in small groups.	
Activity 4: Sharing	10 mins
Groups will share their findings, describing a bird species they have observed. Can the others guess which bird they are describing? We discuss how there might be variation in the birds we see and how they look across the year.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners play the 'Guess who?' game to consolidate their knowledge.	