

Kindergarten Lesson Plans

Creating a Bird Mask and Character!

Learning Objectives:

I can:

- Identify parts of a bird
- Explain the function of parts of the bird
- Assemble a mask to resemble a bird
- Recall the definitions of character, costume, and mask
- Create a bird character
- Use body movement to tell a story
- Use exaggerated body movement
- Recall that masks are used in theatre

Materials and Supplies:

Pre-Show

- [Google Slides Presentation](#)
- Paper
- Heavy cardstock cut into ovals or round paper plates with eye holes cut out
- Yellow Construction paper cut into triangles
- Thin sewing elastic
- Scissors
- Hole-punch
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, paint, feathers etc.
- Construction paper (optional)
- Feathers (optional)
- Glue
- Sample bird mask

Post-Show

- [Google Slides Presentation](#)
- Student masks
- Story Drama Narration

Standards:

South Carolina Academic Standards for Performance Indicators for Science

K.L.2A.3 Develop and use models to exemplify how animals use their body parts to (1) obtain food and other resources, (2) protect themselves, and (3) move from place to place.

South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards for Theatre Proficiency

Anchor Standard 3: *I can act in improvised scenes and written scripts.*

Benchmark T.P NL.3 I can use body and voice to communicate **character** traits and emotions in a **guided drama** experience.

Anchor Standard 2: I can design and use technical elements for improvised scenes and written scripts.

Benchmark T.CR NL.2 I can identify technical elements.

Indicator T.CR NL.2.1 I can identify technical elements such as scenery, costumes, makeup, props, lighting and sound in a prompt.

Pre-Show Activity-Creating a Bird Character and Making a Mask!

Teacher-led Instruction- Birds and Characters (5 minutes)

If you'd like, use the attached Google Slides Presentation to guide this introduction!

- Ask your students what they know about birds!
- Then ask them about the body parts of a bird.
- Have them turn and talk to their neighbor about parts of a bird.
- Gather their attention, and ask the whole group again. Help guide them to remember the main parts of a bird.
- Ask students what birds might use each part of their body for?
- Then, ask students what a character is.
- Revoice student answers, if needed, to clarify that characters are people in a story, book, play, or movie.
- Remind them that they will be seeing a play the next day with lots of characters!
- Ask students if characters are always human.

Draw Your Character (10 minutes)

Students should have paper and drawing materials at this point.

- Explain to the students that today they will be creating and designing their own bird character.
- Remind them that their drawing should include each part of the bird, but that beyond that, it can look however they want!
- Go to the slide with several pictures of birds for the students to use as inspiration.
- Encourage them to be creative!
- Circulate around the room to help keep students on track

Teacher led instruction (5 minutes)

Gather students' attention and use the Google Slides Presentation to guide your instruction.

- Ask your students what a costume is!
- Guide them and explain that costumes are worn when people are playing characters.
- Ask your students what a mask is
- Explain that in many kinds of theatre, masks were worn by actors

Make your mask! (25 minutes)

Students should have materials to make their masks at this point. Eye holes should be pre-cut for students. It may also help to have already hole punched the sides of the mask to add elastic. If you have a sample mask, show it to the students so they have an example of what they'll be creating.

Students will:

- Glue the pre-cut beak to the mask
- Decorate their mask with markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- (If there is extra construction paper) Glue pieces of construction paper to their design
- (If you have feathers) Add feathers to their design!
- With the help of the teachers, attach their elastic so it fits their face
- Try on their mask!
- Look around the room to see other students masks!

If time allows, ask students to identify one thing they like about their own mask, and one thing they like about someone else's mask!

Post-Show Activity-Becoming Our Bird Characters!

Imagination Warm Up (5-7 minutes)

Explain that for this activity, we'll have to use our imaginations and sometimes we need to get our imaginations going. Have the students move about the room with controlled bodies. Remind them to be aware of their surroundings and to use walking feet! As they move around, call out different ways they have to walk. For example, walk like:

- You're an astronaut on the moon
- The floor is sticky
- You're walking through Jell-o
- There's a heavy wind coming right at you

Use your imagination to come up with more examples!

Introduction of Animal Characters (10 minutes)

- Ask students what they remember about the bird characters in the play
 - What were they like?
 - What did you think about them?
 - Did they move differently than the human characters?
 - What did their costumes look like?
- Let students know that today, we'll be playing the bird characters that we created a few days prior
- Ask the students to look at their masks and to come up with a name for their bird character
- If time allows, go around the room and have the students share the name of their character

Analyzing Animal Movement (5 minutes)

- Explain to the students that when we play animal characters, we have to move a little differently than when we're playing human characters.
- Show them the [video](#) (in the Google Slides Presentation or linked here) of birds moving
 - Note: it may be helpful to turn the sound off, so that students are focusing on the movement
- While the video is playing, ask them questions about the movement of the birds. Isolate parts of the body to help them be specific. Offer suggestions to guide the discussion.
 - What word would you use to describe the birds movement?
 - Look at the birds head, does it move differently than the wings?
 - How does it use its feet?

Practicing Animal Movement (10 minutes)

- Have the students put on their bird mask
- First, have students practice the movement while seated. Encourage them to practice moving their head like the bird we watched. It may be helpful to keep the video of the bird on at this point.
- Ask students to stand up and spread out.
- Remind students to be aware of their surroundings, voices should be off, and bodies in control
- Ask students to move like a bird
 - Remind them of observations made when watching the video!
 - Guide them through specific activities, use inspiration from what they already know about birds.
 - The bird finds some seeds and eats them

- The bird flies to another area and lands by their friend
- It starts to rain, so the bird flies to its' nest and wraps itself in its wings, tucking its' head

Performing Animal Movement (10 minutes)

- Create an audience area and a performance area
- Ask the students in the audience to remove their mask
- Remind students of audience behavior
- Call 4-5 students at a time to come up and share their animal movement with the class
- Feel free to give them suggestions, as you did with the whole group, or let them explore on their own!
- Repeat this until every student has had a turn

This serves as an informal assessment. Did the students take inspiration from things they already know about birds and how they use their body parts? Did the student fully commit to the exploration? Did they respond to any side coaching or suggestions given by the teacher?

Reflect! (5 minutes)

If time allows, ask students reflective questions about the process:

- What did you enjoy?
- What was challenging?
- Did the mask help you feel like your character?
- Did the mask help you as an audience member?
- What was it like to move like a bird?

Adaptations

Material prep for masks too much? Make drawing the bird character the focus of the first lesson! Then have students spend more time answering questions about their character beyond their name: What kind of bird is it? Where does it live? What are its' friend's names? Dive deeper into the character!

Want to do more?

-Explore other kinds of animal movement as you learn about the animal!

-Make masks that exhibit a clear emotion, then have the students express that emotion through their bodies while wearing the mask!