

Summer Camp

Amazon Adventure Day 2

4 - 8TH GRADE

WELCOME

(5 min)

Instructions: Welcome your students to camp. Be friendly. Remind students they have the opportunity to earn sand dollars.

MEDIA

(30 min)



MEET THE BIRDS OF THE AMAZON

Say: “**Binoculars up, team—we’re heading into the heart of the Amazon rainforest! You’re today’s expert bird watchers, and your mission is to spot some of the most fascinating birds on Earth. Keep your senses sharp—some birds are neon-bright like macaws and toucans, others blend into the canopy like masters of disguise. Let’s see how many we can identify and what surprises the jungle has in store!**”

Show students this nature movie about the birds of the Amazon. Ask students to document the names of a few birds from the video that they find particularly interesting and colorful. Take notes on which ones you like as you will be making some of these birds later!

Birds of Amazon 4K - Birds That Call The Jungle Home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zh3DRQILnI>

GAME TIME

(25 min)



BIRD NEST

Objective: Players will take turns calling bird names and running to find a seat.

Instructions: Have the players sit in a circle. Choose a few types of birds to use in the game. They will introduce these bird names to the players and encourage them to remember these names. Go around to each student and whisper the name of a bird to them. Make sure to have the same number of each bird, such as five macaws, five toucans, five parrots five parakeets and five crested owls.

One player will be chosen to begin the game. They will stand in the middle and call out the name of a bird. All players with the name of that bird must swap seats, and the player in the middle will run to try to find an open seat. The player who is left standing is now in the middle. When the player in the middle calls “Bird’s Nest,” everyone must get up and run to find a seat.

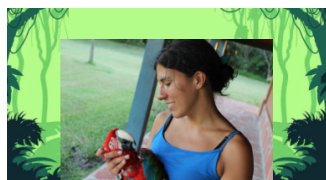
GAME TIME

(40 - 60 min)



STEM STORY

(20 min)



NOELIA VOLPE, THE MACAW GUARDIAN

Gingerly, Noelia tread through the murky water as morning glims equaled between her toes. With each step, she hoped not to feel the scaly prick of doom—she didn't want to step on an alligator. The journey was long and daunting, nearly two miles of swampy land, but the precious cargo tucked in a basket underneath her arms was enough to keep her going. Between folds of the dewy fleece peeked a bright, red and green head of striking brilliance and two gleaming, inquisitive eyes she was rescuing a macaw.

Born and educated in Argentina, Noelia's journey into bird conservation has taken her from the bustling city of Buenos Aires to the remote islands off Honduras. Her mission? To bring the endangered Red and Green Macaw back from the brink of extinction.

For the past 200 years, the Red and Green Macaw disappeared from Argentina. To help bring these critical members of the ecosystem back, scientists like Noelia started a project in Barú National Park to raise and breed more macaws in captivity.

However, since the macaws weren't raised in the wild, it is essential to see if they have the skills to find and eat food on their own. While most scientists usually watched the birds to see what they ate, Noelia has researched and contributed to a method called DNA metabarcoding, which helps find out exactly what the birds have been eating by checking and analyzing their droppings.

PLAY: EXCUSE ME...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Instructions: Have the students form a circle. The first person to go will do an action like washing their hair. The person beside them will say, "Excuse me, what are you doing?" The first person will say something other than what they are doing such as, "Eating pizza." The second person will act out eating pizza. The person next to them will say, "Excuse me, what are you doing?" The second person might say, "Getting dressed." The next person will pretend to get dressed. The game will continue in this way. When someone hesitates or messes up they are out. The last person in the game wins.

PLAY: WORD SCRAMBLE

Instructions: Choose a theme like "rainforest," then list about 12 words on the board that are scrambled. Start with the first word, and go one by one. Don't let the kids jump ahead. If a student thinks they know the word they can raise their hand and tell the instructor. When someone gets the word right the instructor will write the correct word beside it, and then go to the next one. Some examples for rainforest could include: woody vines, canopy, Amazon River, bamboo, green anaconda, etc.

READ THE PROFILE OF NOELIA VOLPE

Read the scientist profile with your students.

Ask: **Why are macaws an important part of the Amazon ecosystem?**

Example: **They help disperse seeds.**

Ask: **How does Noelia advances in science to help track the birds' ability to survive and thrive in the wild?** Example: **She uses DNA samples of their droppings to figure out what they eat.**



STEM TIME

(60 min)

Materials:

- Cardstock paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape
- Sunflower nut butter
- Popsicle sticks
(1 per student)
- Bird Seed



BUILD A BIRDFEEDER

Objective: Today, your students will be designing and building a bird feeder. We provide a basic feeder but students can also come up with their own renditions and designs. Let students be creative! You may have to help with cutting holes, tying knots etc.

Instructions:

1. Spread recycled craft materials out on the tables. Popsicle sticks, glue, scissors, card stock paper to make a tube, and string.

Say: **Today, you're going to be bird watchers—just like real scientists in the Amazon jungle! Your job is to build a bird feeder using recycled materials. This isn't a bird house—it's a place to put food so you can watch which birds come visit. Get creative with your designs, and keep your eyes open all week... let's see what feathered friends show up!**

3. Show students how to roll their cardstock paper into a tube that can be the body of the bird feeder. Staple or tape the tube. Next demonstrate how to make a slit for a popsicle stick to go through. Give students time to create their bird feeder. They may color/decorate them
4. They can add a smear of sunflower nut butter and stick on seeds.
5. Add string to get it ready to be hung.
6. Hang the feeders at school to observe or send them home for students to observe. If they are at school set aside time for students to see if any birds come to them or let students report what they find throughout the week at home.



EASY ORIGAMI

(40 min)

Materials:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Coloring utensils



MAKE AN AMAZON BIRD PUPPET

Say: **Get ready, bird watchers! In the Amazon rainforest, you might spot bright, noisy birds like the toucan with its big rainbow beak or a colorful macaw flapping through the trees. Let's make our own birds, and see what creative color combinations you can make.**

What you'll do:

Students follow along with this tutorial to make their finger puppets.

Paper Bird Finger Puppet - Easy Origami Bird Toy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsjTXXzIXEk>

1. Use the origami paper provided. Students can also cut any regular paper into a square to use.
2. Students fold the paper into a kite.
3. Fold from the middle of the triangle to edge 'A'.
4. Wrap the overhang around the large triangle.
5. Tuck in the edge.
6. Flip the shape over and decorate the beak and wings! Students slide their finger in and play.

Remind students to be creative and add details.

