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 you 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?

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:

Dull Feather:

Fold this sheet in half along the dotted line, grab a pencil, and head outside for some bird watching!

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Look for these bird behaviors as you explore your neighborhood. Check them off as you go!

 Eating

 Flying

 Singing

 Flocking (birds together in a group)

 Alarm Call (making a loud noise)

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

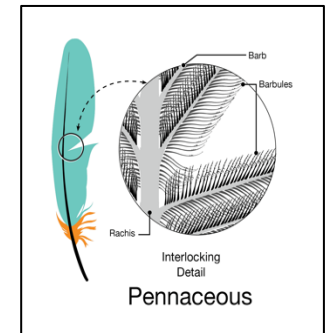My bird likes to:

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!

Pennaceous

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