

Bird Matching Challenge

Birds of the Bayou Pre-Trip Activity

Can you identify these birds? Write each bird's name in the space near its picture.

Then draw a line to match the bird to what you think it eats.

1.





flower nectar

2.





insects

3.





seeds, insects, and berries

4.





fish and frogs

5.





small animals like mice





Bird Matching Challenge Teacher Notes

Birds of the Bayou Pre-Trip Activity



Dear Teacher,

We look forward to your visit to Armand Bayou Nature Center! Before you visit, please review the website's field trip instructions carefully. To prepare your children for their bird-themed field trip, you may use the Bird Matching Challenge Activity. Please consider the following when implementing this activity:

- You may have children complete this in groups or independently.
- Ask children to give this their best effort; it should not be "graded" but simply be used to see what children already know.
- When children finish, have them review their bird matching pages with you.
 - Ask them to describe the birds' looks, and then announce each bird's name.
 - When you reveal the foods each bird eats, note the size and shape of the bird's beak.
 - Tell the children that they will learn more about birds when you visit the nature center.

The correct answers to the bird-matching challenge are:

1. cardinal --- seeds, insects, and berries
2. hummingbird (ruby-throated hummingbird) --- flower nectar
3. hawk (red-tailed hawk) --- small animals like mice
4. swallow (barn swallow) --- insects
5. egret (great egret) --- fish and frogs

To give your students a head-start on what they'll be learning at the nature center, you may wish to point out the following about the birds' beaks:

- Cardinals have thick bills for cracking seeds. They also eat berries and insects.
- Hummingbirds have long slender beaks that fit into flowers and allow them to drink the nectar.
- Hawks have sharp, curved beaks for tearing meat.
- Swallows have wide beaks that they open to catch insects as they fly.
- Egrets have long, thin, large bills for snatching prey in the water.
- Most of these birds will eat a variety of foods, but the ones on the bird match are their favorites.

We will see you soon at the nature center!

