

Activity #17: *The Tale of Chipilo*

Listen to the Birds

Materials:

- Samples of Bird Songs–Use online birdsongs available from the following sites:
 - ⇒ www.allaboutbirds.org (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
 - ⇒ www.birdjam.com/learn
 - ⇒ www.naturesongs.com/birds.html
 - ⇒ www.nhest.org/birdguid.html
- Or you can use Peterson Field Guides: Birding by Ear CD
- Select 4 to 8 bird calls and have students listen to them. Select species that students might hear in their neighborhood or near their school.

Pre Discussion:

Ask students questions and solicit their answers

- **Question:** Why do birds sing?
- **Answer:** Birds sing to attract mates or claim a territory. Birds also call usually with quick short notes like “chip”. Birds call to alert other birds to danger, to find each other, or to announce a food source.
- **Question:** What other things might birds use songs and calls for? (answers will vary)

Activity:

Play the selected songs again giving the name of the bird singing. If calls for the species are available also use them. Then ask students to identify each of the birds singing or calling when they listen to the birds again.

Additional Activity:

Each student makes up a name for the bird species they want to be. Then each student tells their imaginary bird name and gives its song or call that they also make up. Students try to guess the meaning of the song or call.

Outdoor Activity:

Students sit outside and record with words what the bird's song sounds like. Then they describe in writing what they thought the bird was saying. Discuss indoors or out. Students may also want to try and identify the bird they hear singing or calling.

Alignment:

Grade 3 (red)

Grade 4 (blue)

Grade 5 (green)

Grade 6 (purple)

English Language Arts & Reading student expectations: 19; 17; 17; 16

Mathematics student expectations: N/A

Science student expectations: 2(A,F), 3(A), 4(A), 10(A); 2(A,B,F), 3(A), 4(A); 2(C,F), 3(A), 4(A), 9(A); 2(A,C), 3(A), 4(A), 12(F)

Social studies student expectations: 17(C), 18(A); 21(A), 22(A,C,D); 24(A), 25(A,C,D); 21(A), 22(A,C,D)