



LESSON PLAN

CHARTING CATEGORIES

Series: Birds of Prey

Objective

To help students practice using charts to organize facts into categories when taking notes.

Supplies

- One or more books in the Birds of Prey series
- Category Chart worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Category Chart worksheet for each student.

Activity

Have each student choose a book from the Birds of Prey series. Then pass out the Category Chart worksheet. Students will use this worksheet to take notes on the bird they chose. Students will write the bird's name in the central oval. In the other ovals, students will record facts about the bird. Each oval has a category (such as "Appearance" or "Life Cycle") written above it. Students should find three or four facts from the book that relate to each category. They should write those facts inside the oval.

Read through each category's title with students, reviewing the meaning of the words *appearance* (what the bird looks like) and *adaptations* (traits that help the bird survive in the wild). Brainstorm a few animal adaptations together. Sample answers might include long legs that help an animal run fast, coloring that helps the animal blend in with trees/plants, or sharp eyesight that helps an animal find food. Then have students read their books and fill out their worksheets individually. As students work, move around the room to provide prompting and support for any students who struggle.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets at the end of the activity. Did students write three or four facts in each oval? Were the facts a good fit for that category? Give students up to 3 points for each category they filled out accurately, for up to 15 points total.

CATEGORY CHART

