



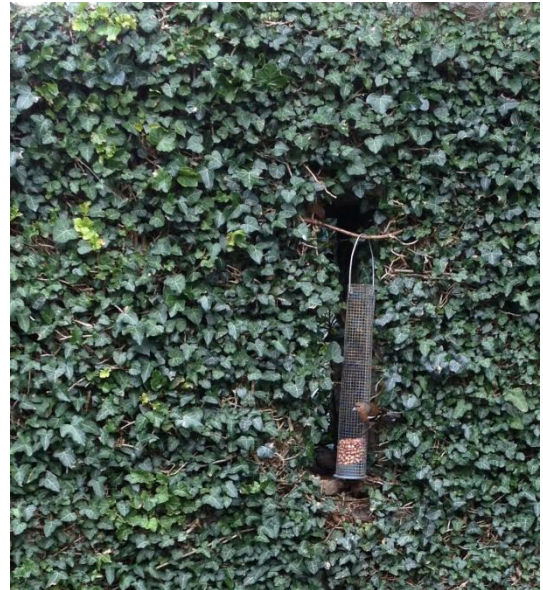
Bird Song in the Classroom

Age: 6⁺ years **Duration:** 40 minutes

This is a really fun activity, mindfully engaging the senses by focusing on aural and observational skills.

Materials:

- A link to the internet
- Whiteboard & Speakers
- Web-links to 3-4 common birds on the RSPB website.



For example:

Robin:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/r/robin/index.aspx>

Great Tit: (calling “teacher-teacher-teacher-teacher”!!)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/g/greattit/index.aspx>

Blackbird:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/b/blackbird/index.aspx>

Kestrel:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/k/kestrel/index.aspx>

Directions:

- Watch the video footage and play the sound files of your chosen birds and ask students to talk about:
 - the appearance of the bird: size, shape, colours
 - the movements
 - the activities of the bird in the video
 - the sound of the bird
 - And what are the similarities and differences between the different types?
- Turn off the screen. Play the video and sound files again, telling the students which bird it is. Ask the students to listen and describe the birds' songs.
- Finally see if the students can recognise the different birds without any other information other than the song.
 - Get the students to close their eyes, and listen to snippets of the songs again- mix up the sequence of play, and pick different sections of the songs.
 - After each snippet, get the students to do a “hands up” e.g. if they think it is a Robin, a Great Tit, a Blackbird or a Kestrel. Tell them which one is singing after each go.

Extensions:

- After the exercise, put pictures of the birds up on screen again, and get each student to draw their favourite, or all birds.
- The ‘Sound Mapping’ outdoor activity on the Green-Schools Website, in Biodiversity ‘Resources’ section, is also great with any age: www.greenschoolsireland.org/

