

## Art Lessons 6: Big Bright Birds

### Lesson Overview

In this lesson, pupils listen to *Aviary* from *The Carnival of the Animals*, by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. They use this as a starting point to design their own Big Bright Birds on cardboard using colourful patterns. This is a small group activity.

### Suggested Learning Intentions

We are learning to:

- create and develop ideas using colours, lines, shapes and patterns; and
- take personal responsibility for working with others and evaluate our own contribution to the group (Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities: Working With Others).

### Suggested Success Criteria

I will be successful if ...

- I can paint a pattern.
- I can complete my artwork and talk about what I was responsible for in my group.

### Materials needed for this lesson

- Large sheets of cardboard (from flattened boxes)
- Pencils
- Poster or acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes and water jars
- Newspaper or tablecloths
- Aprons

- **Resource D: Big Bright Birds**
- **Resource E: Our Big Bright Bird**

### Suggested Artworks

- *Cat and Bird* by Paul Klee (1928)
- Explore illustrations of birds in children's picture books.

## Ideas for Cross-Curricular and Connected Play-Based Learning Opportunities

- **Language and Literacy**

Read story books about birds with the class. For example *Hooray for Birds!* by Lucy Cousins, *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon* by Jacqueline Davies, *Percy the Pigeon* by Katie Budge, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson, *Hello Birds: What Do You Say?* by Loes Botman or *Are You My Mother?* by P D Eastman. Use as a stimulus for writing or talking and listening activities. You could also use puppets to dramatise stories.

- **Mathematics and Numeracy**

Ask your pupils to:

- create a picture of birds, using 2D shapes;
- create a large-scale picture of birds outdoors, using found objects, for example pebbles, leaves, feathers or twigs, counting in the course of play.

- **Music**

Encourage your pupils to sing and learn dance sequences to bird songs such as *Rockin' Robin* or *Yellow Bird*.

- **Table Top**

Ask your pupils to create birds from play dough and decorate them with feathers or beads.

- **World Around Us**

Teach your pupils about the different types of birds, their bird calls and their habitats. Help your pupils to make bird feeders.

- **ICT**

Ask your pupils to draw and design a bird using painting software or an app.



## Suggested Lesson Phase

### Introduction

Share the learning intentions and success criteria with your pupils, making sure to include Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. Recall *The Carnival of the Animals* and ask your pupils to listen to [Aviary](#), which is available on YouTube.

Ask your pupils to guess what animals the music was about. Encourage them to describe the music. Explain to your pupils what the word aviary means. Then ask them to listen a second time and lie back and close their eyes. When they open their eyes, ask them to describe what types of birds they had seen in their imagination.

In this activity, pupils work together as a group to create a Big Bright Bird. Each pupil is responsible for designing and painting a patterned piece of the bird's body.

[Big Cardboard Birds](#), available at [www.krokotak.com](http://www.krokotak.com), includes photographs of what you might expect from this lesson.

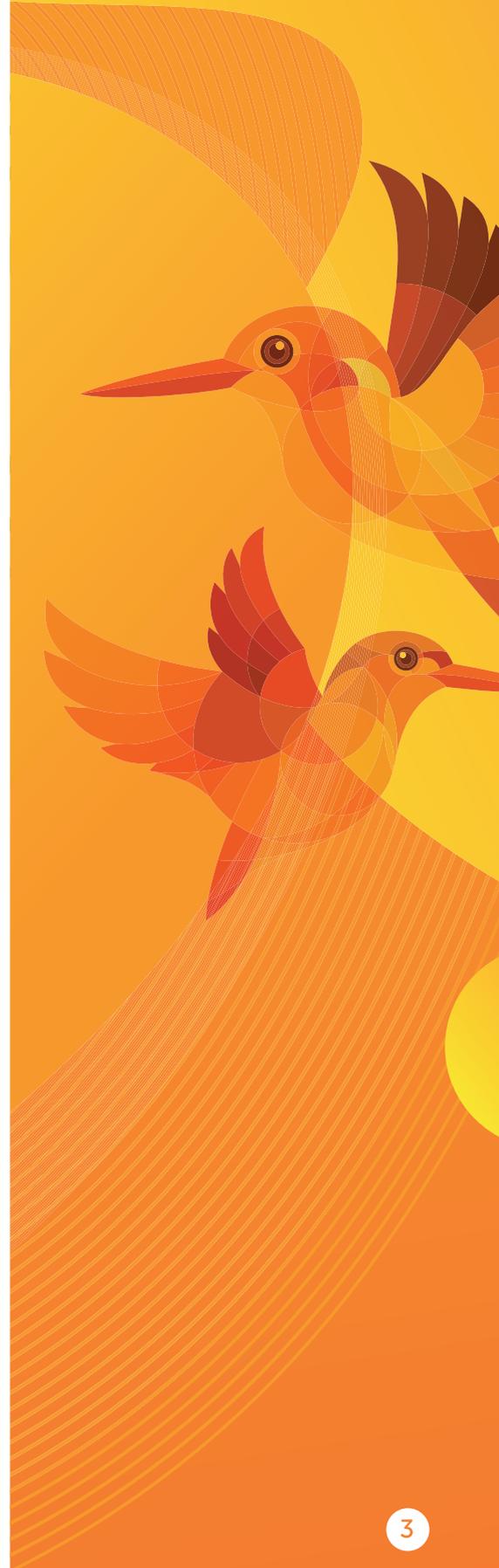
Look at **Resource D** with your pupils and discuss the types of colours, patterns and designs they can see on the birds. For example some have stripes, spots or unique patches. Tell your pupils that they are going to create their own design for a bird's body. You can refer back to Art Lesson 1: Line Pattern Lions and recap the types of designs your pupils created.

### Activity

Show your pupils the cardboard components that will make up their Big Bright Bird – one body, one head, two wings and a tail. In groups, let your pupils decide what part they will take responsibility for. Now pupils can make a sketch on paper of what their pattern might look like.

Using pencil, ask your pupils to draw the outline of the pattern onto their cardboard component. After pupils have finished their outline, they can start to paint it using poster or acrylic paints.

Depending on your pupils' experience and ability, you may need to extend the painting activity over two lessons.



### Plenary

Ask each group to complete **Resource E** together. After your pupils have completed and assembled the birds, invite each group to come forward and tell the rest of the class what part of the bird they were responsible for. Questions might include:

- Why was it important for your group to work together?
- What would have happened to your bird if one pupil did not complete their work?
- What did you learn about working together in a group?

