



# OUTDOOR LEARNING

## UP ABOVE

**RISK DISCUSSION**  
**MATERIALS: CONTAINER /CHALK**  
**/PENCIL/PAPER**



**15 min - 40 min**

### WARM UP



Ask the pupils to spread out and stop then look up (20 seconds)  
Then ask them what shapes did they see?  
Then ask them what colours did they see?  
Ask all the pupils to run to you and back to the spot from earlier and stop  
Ask them to look up (20 seconds)  
Then ask them what things do they see?

### FLIGHT



Divide into groups  
Go for a walk looking for feathers  
If you find some or none discuss why?

Why can't we fly? Why can birds fly?



### NESTING

Each group needs to look and collect twigs, leaves, moss etc enough to create 2 small nests (don't damage living things).

Relay time

Each group puts there collected items on the ground and walks 20 paces away to

In a relay each group needs to build 2 nest but they can only collect 1 item at a time with their "beak fingers"

(This activity aims to show how time and energy consuming it must be to make a nest)

(Return collected items to a natural area for wildlife to still use)

### SPOTTING



All stand or sit in a space for 10 minutes and record the birds spotted and try Identify using chart provided:

What do your results tell you about your surveying site?  
Can you think of ways to improve it?

Create a video / poster / suggestions for the school

### ASSESSMENT



Questions  
Photograph activity  
Record findings  
Comments of students

# UP ABOVE INFORMATION SHEET



## FEATHERS



- Feathers are unique to birds
- Feathers provide insulation, are essential to flight, camouflage and are used to attract mates.
- An interesting fact: bird's plumage usually weighs more than its skeleton.
- At least one a year, an adult will moult, replacing their feathers. In Winter, some birds can have 50% more feathers than in Summer due to heating or cooling requirements.
- During incubation, feathers from the abdomen are lost as eggs are kept warmer when in contact with the skin and is referred to as a brood patch. When the chick fledges the nest, the feathers in this area will regrow.



## NESTING

Nests are mainly made in late March to April. Initially they start with twigs, lodging them in branches and will often drop a few. A crude nest starts to appear, additional materials are added such as moss, grass, hair and even spider webs. Each element being collected using their beaks and sometimes their feet. All this activity takes time and energy from birds. Some birds create their nests on the ground, on the beach, in hedges and in the tree trunks or branches just to name a few. If there is a safe opportunity, birds will try a nesting site. As natural nesting sites disappear, birds struggle to find sites.