

It's for the Birds

BEFORE 1: Literacy Connection- *Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet are Neat*

Before your visit, introduce students to the concept that bird feet are adaptations that help birds to find food and function in various habitats.

Estimate time: 30 minutes

VA Standards Addressed

English (2024): 2.C.1, 3.C.1, 4.C.1

Science (2018): 3.5

Materials

- Copies of [Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet are Neat](#)

Instructional Strategy- These instructions were copied from <https://cdn.sourcebooks.com/assets/downloads/activitykits/PaddlePerchClimb.pdf> Tips for reading aloud.

1. Preview the book *Paddle Perch Climb Bird Feet Are Neat* ahead of time. Engage children by reading with expression. Use a different voice for the “watch out” statements, such as “Watch out for the fox!” and “Be careful of the bobcat!”
2. Read aloud the title then identify the author and illustrator. Ask children to look at the cover illustration and make predictions about what information is in the book. What do you think you will learn by reading the book?
3. Read aloud, pausing to clarify the meanings of new words.
4. Have children review their predictions. What does the author want you to learn by reading the book?
5. Read the book again. Ask children to listen closely to find out how each bird moves to get its food.
6. After reading, discuss how the shape and size of each bird’s feet and legs are clues to what it eats and how it moves. Invite children to perform words, such as paddle, perch, cling, scratch, and grasp.
7. “Look Out!” Tell children that while birds are eating, they need to be careful not to get eaten. Turn the pages and ask children to find each bird’s predator hiding in the illustration.

