



THE BIRD WAY OF FISHING

Grade: We think this will be most popular with **1-4 graders**.

Setting: Special event booth (outdoors)

Theme (Bottom Line): The fishing styles of the pelican, heron and eagle are a tool to survive. By using different parts of a pond and different fishing techniques, all can survive, even in close proximity.

Description: Participants try fishing with different tools representing fishing techniques of 3 birds; eagle, pelican and heron.

Recommended Time: 10 min or so per participant

Materials List:

For the fishing pool: Supplies are in the little house.

- 1 fishing pool (kiddie pool or other large container of water)
- Water for pool in jugs (3 jugs is usually sufficient)
- Fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, crawdads etc.
- Grabbers and nets to represent **pelican, heron and eagle**. Grabbers should have photos attached of the birds they represent.

For the tabletop display:

- 3 panel display board
- Handouts like bird lists, maps, tracks and trails
- Table and shade cover (depends on location)
- Stickers and stamps as “prizes” for participating.

Getting Ready:

1. Assemble all the materials.
2. Become familiar with background info on how birds fish

Procedure:

1. Ask participants if they want to try a fishing game, invite them to participate.
2. Explain that they can choose a tool and which bird/technique this matches up with.

Bird	Tool	Info
Pelican	Net	Pelicans herd fish in groups (in a line, horseshoe or circle shape), then scoop up the fish they've brought to the surface like a net.
Heron	Spear/ scissors	Hérons wait patiently in shallow still water until a fish is in sight, then they spear the fish with their beaks.
Eagle	Grabber	Eagles perch near water, fly and search for fish, then quickly swoop down and grab the fish with their powerful talons. They bring the fish back to a perch to eat.

3. Help the participants “fish” and share information about birds, their fishing techniques and the fact that all 3 of these birds are found in Fort Collins.
4. If they “catch” something, remind them that this is a “catch and release” pond.
5. Invite participants to check out the display and get a “prize”.
6. Remember to share: The fishing style of each bird is it’s tool to survive. By using different parts of the pond and different fishing techniques, all can survive, even in close proximity.

Display Description

- Panel 1- Title: The Bird Way of Fishing
- Panel 2, 3, 4 Pictures of birds fishing and descriptions:
 - i. Grab. The eagle fishes from high using its keen eyesight. With lightening speed, strong talons grab a fish and the eagle flies to a perch for a tasty meal.
 - ii. Spear. Herons wait in shallow still water and stalk their prey. When a fish is near, suddenly the heron strikes and spears it with its beak.
 - iii. Net. Pelicans form a line, a horseshoe shape or a circle. Paddling with their feet they “herd” the fish into the middle... then dip! They scoop up their catch and swallow it whole!
- Panel 5- Fossil Creek Reservoir Has:
 - √ Shallow, still water for herons.
 - √ Perches and open water for eagles.
 - √ Space for pelicans to work together to herd fish.By using different fishing techniques, all can survive, even close by.
- Panel 6- City logo/ NAP banner

*This activity was written by Zoe Whyman and Dolores Daniels of the City of Fort Collins Master Naturalist Program. Activity updated by Susan Schafer and Kimberly Tamkun.