



## *Calling all Birds - Build-a-bird Kite crafting*

### Activity Snapshot:

- Birds come in so many amazing shapes and colors and sizes! And each bird is using their beak, feet, and wings in different ways
- The shape of a bird's beak can tell us what food they might eat!
- The shape of a bird's feet can tell us where they live!
- The color and shape of a bird's wings can help them move through their habitat safely!
- Many birds have the amazing ability to FLY! Today we'll build a simple paper bird kite, so you can fly your own unique bird of your own design!

### Goal:

To Build-a-Bird of our very own! We'll remember what all birds have in common, and consider what each choice for our bird would help it do to survive and thrive in the wild!

### Time Recommended:

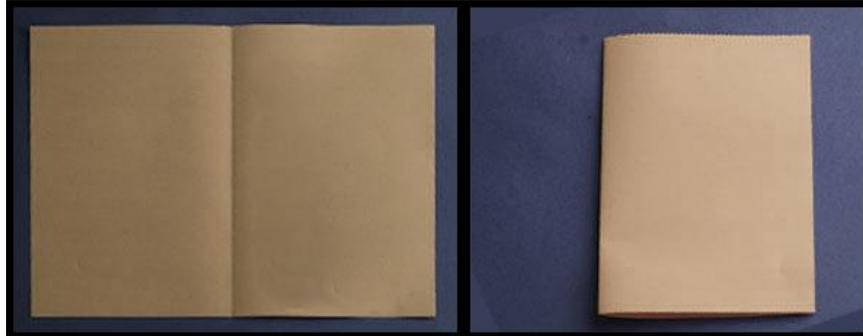
20-30 minutes

### Materials:

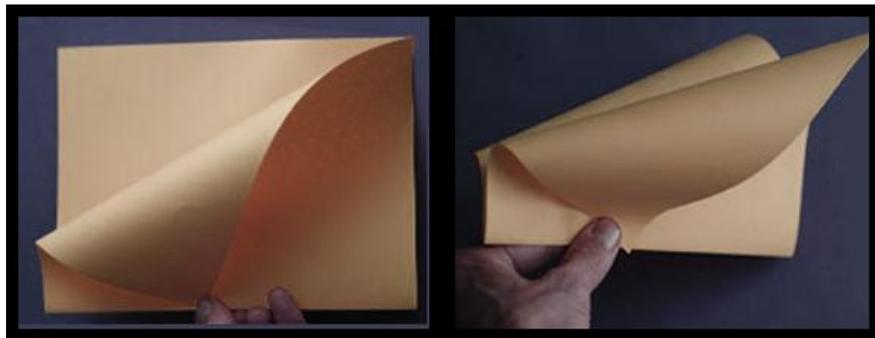
- Paper
- Art supplies (for coloring in and drawing features on your bird!)
- Scissors (for cutting out bird shapes, like feet or beaks!)
- Tape or Stapler (for holding the wings in place)
- A hole Punch (or a means of making a hole for the kite string)
- A string or yarn! (at least an arm's length, can be longer)
- Glue (or tape or stapler) for placing the body parts on the bird!

Instructions:

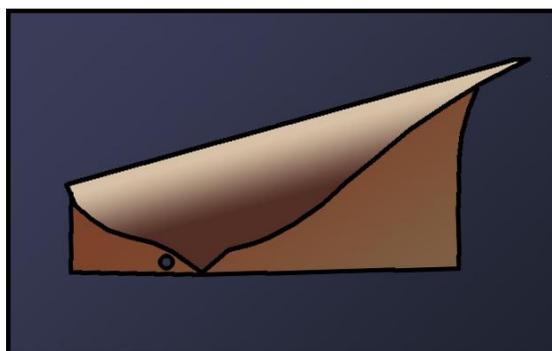
1. Take the piece of paper that will be the body of your bird. What color is it?
  - a. Fold the Paper in half.



2. Gently take the edge of each half and bend them toward the base without folding or creasing them. (see illustration), This will make our two rounded wings!



- a. Staple or tape the corners to the bottom of the bird, so that they are secure and will not come undone.
3. Punch a hole in the base of the bird, where a string can be attached. You can experiment with the placement - too far forward or back can cause the bird to fly a little differently. We have found the best placement for us is somewhere between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the bird from the front.



4. Now that we have the base body of the bird, it's time to Build-the-bird!

5. All birds have a beak - but they can be many different shapes,
  - a. Check out our beak reference sheet and choose a shape of beak your bird will have.
  - b. What might your bird use its beak for? What sort of food might it eat?
  - c. Cut out the beak and stick it into place at the front of the bird. (glue, tape, or staple)
6. All birds have eyes for finding their way - go ahead and draw some eyes on your bird behind the beak!
7. All birds have feet for helping them perch or swim or catch prey.
  - a. Check out our feet reference sheet and choose a foot type for your bird
  - b. What does your bird use its feet for? Where might your bird live?
  - c. Cut out the feet and place them at the bottom of your bird behind the hole for the kite string. (glue, tape, or staple)
8. All birds have feathers!
  - a. Feathers can help them blend in or stand out - what color are your bird feathers?
  - b. Feathers can help the bird fly and balance - let's add some tail feathers!
  - c. Cut out your bird's tail and place it at the back of the bird kite (glue, tape, or staple)
9. Your bird is looking beautiful! Feel free to add any other modifications you like - but remember - birds want to be as light as possible in order to fly! Too many pretty additions can weigh your bird-kite down.
10. Take the string and tie through the hole you made for it (Be gentle! If you pull too tightly, it could rip the paper.)
11. Give your bird a try! Take it for a fly! Grab the end of the string and run forward, letting your bird trail behind you. The wind should catch in the bird's rounded wings and give it some lift!
  - a. If your bird friend is having a little trouble, don't fret! Experiment and try again! Adjusting the placement of the string, the shape of the wings, or the weight of the bird can really make a big difference!

Imagine your bird flying high in the sky - how is it like other birds in your neighborhood? How is it different?

Additional Materials:

Bird Beaks:



**Short, Thick Beak  
for cracking  
seeds and nuts**



**Sharp Curved Beak  
for ripping  
and tearing meat**



**Flat Rounded Bill  
for filtering  
food from water**



**Short, Straight Beak  
for Chiseling  
holes in trees**



**Long, Straight Beak  
for Spearing  
fish and frogs**



**Small, Thin Beak  
For sipping  
nectar from flowers**

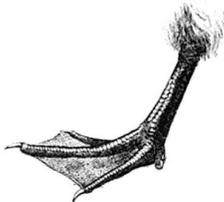
Bird Feet:



**Small, thin feet  
for perching  
on branches**



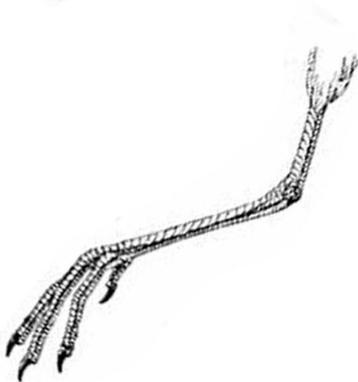
**Sharp Curved Talons  
for catching  
and tearing prey**



**Flat Webbed Feet  
for paddling  
and swimming on water**



**Strong Hooked feet  
for climbing vertically  
on trees**



**Long, Thin Feet  
for wading  
in mud and water**