

Middle School Education Lesson Plan

Below is an example of a middle school lesson plan that uses Picasa:

(Found on discoveryeducation.com)

Objectives	Students will learn the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All types of birds have scientific as well as common names.2. Specific types of birds can be identified by their sizes and shapes.3. Each type of bird has characteristic physical and behavioral characteristics.
Materials	For this lesson, you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bird identification field guides• a photocopying machine• blank transparencies• scissors• an overhead projector• black construction paper• white chalk• 3" x 5" index cards
Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First start off by creating a bird collage on Picasa just to show the students all of the different types of birds. This will give them a good background for before they start the lesson. Tell students that they are going to create a bird-identification challenge game for their classmates. Explain that each student will work with a partner to select a bird from a field guide, create a silhouette of the bird, and challenge classmates to identify it. Encourage students to select familiar birds from your area.2. Give each pair of students the opportunity to use a field guide. Instruct them to choose a bird and write the common name of the bird on the chalkboard. If more than one pair chooses the same bird, ask students to select alternatives so that each pair has a different bird. Adjust the list so that it includes all the birds chosen by the class.3. Have students write on index cards the common and scientific name of their bird and a description of their bird's physical and behavioral characteristics. (They can find this information in the field guides.)4. Use a copy machine to photocopy from the field guide each bird that students have chosen onto a transparency.5. Have each pair of students use an overhead projector to project a life-size image of their bird onto black construction paper and trace the outline of the bird with chalk.6. Have students cut out their bird outlines and attach the index cards to the backs of the outlines, where they cannot be seen.7. Mount the bird silhouettes around the room.8. Add the scientific name of each bird to the list on the chalkboard. Have students try their skill at matching each silhouette with its common and scientific name. If they have trouble, allow them to consult their field guides. Use the index cards on the backs of the silhouettes to check answers.