

Parakeets in the Classroom!

By: Carrie Vahsholtz

Pets in the Classroom!

Pets in the classroom is a great way to teach children the responsibility of taking care of pets. I would like to get a parakeet for my classroom of fourth graders. The students will be assigned daily jobs of taking care of our classroom pet. Students will be thrilled to participate in training and teaching our bird new words. I know our pet will be getting an abundance of love and attention in our classroom. Fourth graders are eager to learn and gain knowledge of parakeets through research and STEM projects. Some of the activities I plan on using in my classroom are listed below.

Activity 1: Set Rules and boundaries for the students

1. Keep Voices Quiet
2. Never pick up the parakeet without permission
3. Be alert in the classroom...birds like to explore
4. Keep the door closed
5. Attend to your chores before the class starts.

Feed the bird, change the water in feeder and bath, clean the toys and change the litter paper in the cage.

Activity 2: Research about parrots

- Students will be assigned one of 328 species of parrots to research. Students will research and write an informative/explanatory text and examine and convey ideas through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. Students will then create a slide presentation of their information they find using their ipads.



Objective for Research Project:

Parrots, Parrots, Parrots!!!!

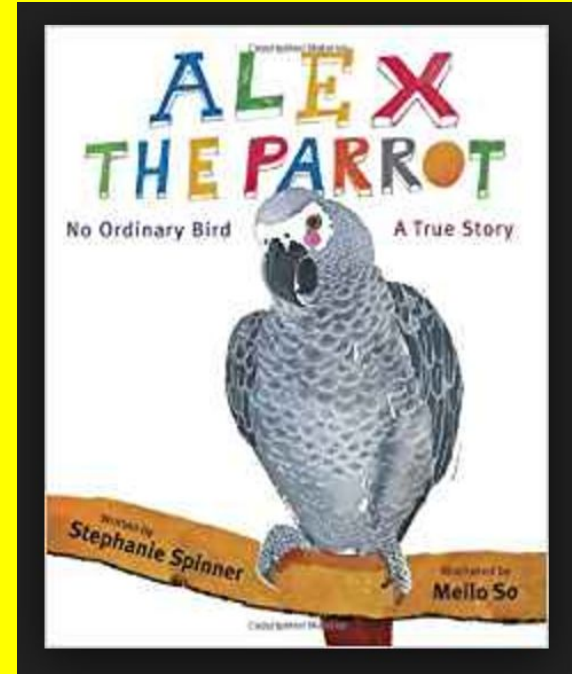
You are to create a TV show about one of the 328 species of parrots using I-Movie. A director of a TV show presents video, film, or photos in an interesting way to make the content entertaining. Find photos on the Internet. Decide which design technique will best influence the message you want to give to your viewers. Should you use photos that are close-ups or wide-angle views of your bird? Would sound effects be effective? Write a short narration for each photo. Record sound effects that you think will create the right background. Present your TV Show to the class. The purpose of your show is to inform about your species of parrot and entertain viewers.

Rubric: for Parrots, Parrots, Parrots!

Included Pictures	10	_____
Captions about your pictures	10	_____
Facts about Parrots	10	_____
Narration (Spoken descriptions)	10	_____
Speak clearly and loudly	10	_____
Research is Organized	10	_____
Creative Presentation	10	_____
Present to the Class	10	_____
Fulfill the Purpose to Inform and Entertain	20	_____
Total	100	_____
Grade		_____

Activity 3: Teaching our bird to talk and Art Project

- Read the book “Alex the Parrot: No Ordinary Bird” by Stephanie Spinner and Meilo So
- Discuss the story about the special things Alex can do and say.
- Brainstorm what words we want our bird to say. Choose two words we want to focus on and teach our bird.
- Students will then create an art project with a parrot from their research project. Students will include a brief written summary about their species of parrot. Art work will be hung up in the hall at our school. (There are an abundance of ideas on Pinterest for art projects)



Activity 4: STEM Projects

- STEM project! Students will build a birdhouse with recycled material. (This project is found in STEM books)
- STEM project! Students will research a variety of types of birds in our area, the design of their beak, and what certain species of birds eat. Then students will then build a bird feeder to supplement our outside feathered friends during the winter.

Activity 5: Tracking Migration Patterns

- Students will research and track the migration pattern of the Orange-Bellied Parrot. Students will graph the migration on a map. Students will then watch the movie “Migration” to see a flying company of parrots up close.



Activity 6: Other Resources

- We plan on inviting a local veterinary to our classroom to teach us about his job and parrots.
- There are also numerous websites with parrakeet lessons. Some of them are:
<http://www.educatall.com/page/739/Parrots.html> ,
https://www.arbordalepublishing.com/documents/TeachingActivities/Parrot_TA.pdf
<https://www.parrots.org/kids/teachers.html>
<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756205>
<https://www.pinterest.com/luv2harp/teaching-birds-unit-study/?lp=true>
<https://www.lessonplanet.com/lesson-plans/parakeet/all>

Pets in the Classroom Grant Overview!

These are just a few of the ideas I have to incorporate and welcome a parakeet into our classroom. The ideas and possibilities are endless. The parakeet will fit right into our science curriculum and would compliment our unit on living things. My fourth graders would be thrilled to receive a parakeet for our classroom.