



Become an Expert

Objective:

To become intimately familiar with one species of sea duck.

Concept:

The more students understand about the unique life history and habitat requirements of sea ducks, the better equipped they will be to understand impacts of human actions and natural events and the more effective they will be as future decision makers and responsible citizens.

You Will Need:

- ◆ Species ID Cards
- ◆ Additional reference materials, see back section
- ◆ Search for Answers Worksheet
- ◆ Six-Sided Search Pattern
- ◆ Range map of Alaska and the USA

What to Do:

Introductions:

Students will divide up into research teams and work cooperatively to collect information about their bird species and then teach the class about their sea duck. Student teams should complete one of the suggested projects to display their information.

Show students where the local resources will be for conducting their research. Make available a "listening center" for the students to hear and learn their particular sea duck call. Have as many bird books and additional resources available as possible.

Divide the class up into their research teams and distribute their research "packets." Each packet should include: the Search for Answers research sheet, a U.S. and Alaska range map to color and their "Six-Sided Research Cube" for sharing their information. The teacher should decide if each

student will individually fill out each piece of the research packet, or if the team will fill out the pieces cooperatively.

Once their research is complete and their cube is finished, the research team needs to decide on a project to complete for a display as part of their presentation. Listed below are a few suggestions - feel free to add more as appropriate.

Display Suggestions:

Design a game for the class that teaches about your sea duck.

Write a story about your bird's unique life history. The story can be a real life account of an event or a fictional story about your sea duck's life. Illustrate your story.

Write a poem or song about your sea duck.

Create a puppet show that teaches about your sea duck and explains some of its special adaptations and unique habitat requirements.

Make a showbox diorama of your sea duck in either its wintering ground habitat or its breeding ground habitat, or both.

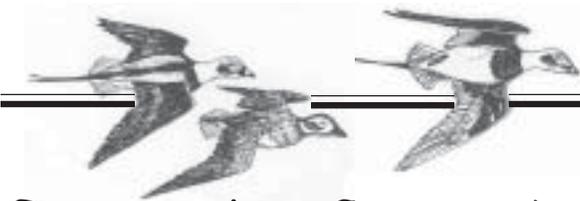
Make a poster showing your bird, its range and any other unique characteristics.

Class presentations:

Have each group present their research in a fun format. If you have time, hold a "Science Conference." Each research team will have their research papers and cubes on display during an "Open House," and then each team will present their research or their display project.

Other suggestions for a presentation forum are: a talk show, a scientist panel, or regular team presentations.





Search for Answers

Sea Duck Research

Name of your sea duck: _____

Scientific Name: _____

Describe your bird's habitat: _____

Breeding habitat: _____

Wintering habitat: _____

What does your bird eat? _____

Does your bird have any predators? _____

Is this duck considered rare or endangered (What is its status)? _____

What kind of nest does your bird build? _____

Where does your bird nest? _____

What time of year does your bird nest? _____

How many eggs does it lay? _____

How often does it lay eggs? _____

What color are the eggs? _____

Gee Whiz Fact 1: _____

Gee Whiz Fact 2: _____

Share your favorite sea duck recipe: _____

Six-sided Cube Display

Illustration:

Two Interesting Facts:

Description:

Habitat:

Range:

Name of Animal:

Reason for Concern:

Range Map

