



Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives Educational Program

Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives Educational Program offers educators an opportunity to teach aspects of the curriculum while engaging students in fun, inspirational activities that promote the well-being of cats and birds.

Suitable for use by both humane and wildlife educators, as well as teachers, the program spans Grades 4 to 9, and can be used with or without Margaret Atwood's graphic novel series, *Angel Catbird*, published in tandem with our campaign. The novels include not only an engaging narrative and a multitude of cat puns, but also banners of information about the real-life scenarios facing cats and birds. Angel Catbird (the character) can see both sides of the dilemma, and so offers readers a uniquely balanced perspective based on compassion for both kinds of animals.

The activities involve a variety of subject areas, including science and technology, math, art and social studies. The lessons can be taught individually or in succession.

Each activity includes an outline of curriculum links to give you a better idea of where you can fit them into your lesson plans. We also list recommended materials and give an appropriate time allocation for each activity.

Keep Cats Safe & Save Bird Lives is an initiative of Nature Canada, the oldest conservation charity in Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Earth Rangers, Bird Studies Canada, and our regional partners. We are grateful to PetSmart Charities of Canada for supporting the development of this program.

Please find below an inventory of the educational program lessons and activities.

Grade 4

Component 1: Cat Bird Science 101

Defining Similarities and Differences Between Cats and Birds (Science)

Summary: Using the cards provided, as a group students complete a Venn diagram or chart exploring the differences between cats' and birds' physical and behavioural characteristics and the implications of these differences.

Component 2: Different Where? Different There, in Levels of Care (Science)

Summary: Students create a Venn diagram to examine the differences in the standards of care between cats and dogs and the environmental implications of those practices.

Component 3: Cat Bird Math: One Un-Sterilized Cat Can Mean Countless More (Math)

Summary: Students complete a math exercise about cat reproduction.

Component 4: Prowling in Suburbia: Can Helpful Humans Really Make a Difference? (Geography)

Summary: A 'ProjectWild' type outdoor game of 'tag' in which students interact as cats, birds and humans, creating a data set to analyse the implications of those interactions.

Component 5: Writer's Wrap Up (Language Arts)

Summary: Students write and revise a sentence about what they learned in the above lessons.

Grade 5

Component 1: Cats and Birds: Connected... But How? (Science)

Summary: students use string and clay to make a model of a food web to better understand the interactions between species within an ecosystem, particularly cats and birds.

Component 2: Growing and Shrinking: Cat Bird Math and An Investigation into Animal Population Relationships (Math)

Summary: Students complete a set of word problems about cats and birds and graph the results.

Component 3: Social Responsibility and Laws about Cats and Birds: Profiling Calgary, Alberta (Social Studies)

Summary: Students research the cat bylaws in Calgary, AB and complete a worksheet to explore how bylaws can protect both cats and birds.

Component 4: Your Role in Creating a Community that Protects both Cats and Birds: Encouraging Your Local Government (with optional "Town Hall" role play) (Language)

Summary: Students compare their local bylaw with the Calgary model they researched in Component 3, and write a letter to their local government about how the community could improve the bylaws about cats and birds, with an option to include a town hall role play.

Grade 6

Component 1: A Cat's Connection to the Food Web (Science)

Summary: Students act as individual components of a food web, experience the interconnectedness of all the species, and then have a discussion about how reducing the number of domestic cats able to catch birds affects the web, and the key role of humans in this scenario.

Component 2: Life Span Math: There are Many Dangers for Cats Outdoors (Math)

Summary: Students complete two math exercises using fractions and ratios to understand the differences in the lifespan of outdoor and indoor cats and how responsible cat-care can affect bird populations.

Component 3: Cats and Birds: a GLOBAL Problem, with a LOCAL Solution (Social Studies)

Summary: Students label a map of North America and learn about bird migratory routes and the inter-connectedness of communities to which (or from which) birds migrate.

Component 4: Pro-Cat Protection: An Argument in Support of Keeping Cats Safe (indoors, or supervised outdoors) (Language)

Summary: Students engage in a writing and editing exercise to construct an argument in support of keeping cats safe and saving bird lives, using the information they learned in the previous three lessons.

Grade 7

Component 1: This, not That (Science)

Summary: Teams of 3 or 4 students design and present a device or app to enrich a cat's environment, an important part of keeping them physically and mentally healthy, or a device or app that will help protect birds (suggestions below).

Component 2: This, not That - Part II: Creating Media Text or Advertisements for your Inventions (Language (Media Texts))

Summary: a group activity in which students develop ways to market the device they invented in the previous activity, and evaluate each other's approach to marketing.

Component 3: Data and Proof (Math)

Summary: Students chart data from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies Shelter Statistics, and analyze the resulting graph.

Component 4: Cats and Birds Campaign: A Closer Look (Social Studies)

Summary: Students analyze the Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives campaign and explore opposing viewpoints.

Grade 8

Component 1: Population Math: Using Exponents to Demonstrate Reproduction Rates of Un-spayed / Un-neutered cats (Math)

Summary: Students engage in a math exercise using exponents to demonstrate the rates of reproduction of cats.

Component 2: Both Sides of the Tail: Keeping your Cats Safe, or Letting them Roam Unsupervised? (Social Studies)

Summary: Students use the internet to research opinions on whether cats are safe outdoors unsupervised, the arguments used on both sides, and the alternatives to allowing a cat to roam, and complete a worksheet on the impact of an individual's actions on both their cat and the larger community.

Component 3: The Great Debate (Language)

Summary: Students use the information they've learned in the previous two lessons to formulate an opinion on the issues around cats and birds, further research the issues, and prepare and participate in a debate.

Grade 9

Component 1: By-law Talk: Exploring Legislation to Solve the Issues Surrounding Cats and Birds (Geography)

Summary: Students explore the role of municipal legislation in solving the issues for cats and birds, how bylaws can make a community more sustainable, and how such bylaws can affect communities in other countries along birds' migratory routes.

Component 2: Impact Assessment of Cats in a Community: Evaluating Interactions and Making Recommendations for Going Forward (Biology)

Summary: Students research the environmental impact of cats and complete a simplified Environmental Impact Assessment.

Component 3: Angel Catbird and the Cats and Birds Campaign: Using Media Texts to Support a Conservation Initiative (English)

Summary: Students analyze Margaret Atwood's *Angel Catbird* as a sample of a media text written in support of a conservation initiative, and plan, create and evaluate their own media texts.

Additional Resources:

- Glossary
- Reading *Angel Catbird* with Your Students (reading activity)
- *Angel Catbird* colouring pages
- Handy Fact Sheet about Cats & Birds in Canada
- List of Available Printed Materials
- List of Useful Links