

All about water birds

Information for teachers

Overview of the pack

This pack is about the six most common birds found on our canals and rivers – mallard ducks, coots, moorhens, swans, Canada geese and herons. It includes information about classification, their key features, habitats, feeding habits and life cycles.

Pupils should be taught to

- Identify and name a variety of common birds that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores
- Understand that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited
- Understand that some animals have skeletons for support, protection and movement
- Describe the lifecycle of a bird
- Describe how living things are classified into broad group according to common observable characteristics

Other resources

Look at Canal & River Habitats pack for more information and activities about plants and animals that live near canals and rivers.

Look at Canal & River Habitats pack activity sheets for activities linked to identifying and classifying birds.

Look at All about Animals to find out more about classification of animals.

Look at Canal & River Explorers Visit Information Document to help you plan a trip to your local canal or river to observe birds in their natural environment.

Learning objectives

- To understand that vertebrate animals can be classified into groups – fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds
- To identify the key features of six common water birds, their similarities and differences and how they are suited to their environment
- To understand the basic requirements of six common water birds – their feeding habits and habitats
- To understand the basic lifecycle of water birds