

Educators' Guide to Bird Paradise

Early Years (N1 and below)

Everybirdy, Let's Have Fun!



Planning a learning journey

Bird Paradise is a huge place. We recommend that you focus on a section of Bird Paradise for learning journeys.

This guide features:

- ~ Penguin Cove
- ~ Feathers Hub
- ~ Heart of Africa
- ~ Nests Hub
- ~ Wings of Asia

Do make use of the **fun facts** on feathers, nests and eggs at the Hubs to facilitate **observation, discovery and learning** in addition to exploration at Penguin Cove, Heart of Africa and Wings of Asia.

Suggested Itinerary

- A** Start from entrance
- B** Penguin Cove
- C** Feathers Hub
- D** Heart of Africa
- E** Nests Hub
- F** Wings of Asia
- G** Tram back to entrance



Mandai Wildlife West



About Bird Paradise

Look out for



8 walk-in aviaries:

- ~ Heart of Africa
- ~ Wings of Asia
- ~ Crimson Wetlands
- ~ Amazonian Jewels
- ~ Songs of the Forest
- ~ Lory Loft
- ~ Mysterious Papua
- ~ Australian Outback



11 Thematic Discovery Hubs

Discovery spaces to learn about feathers, beaks, nests, camouflage, eggs, colours, migration and more.



Children Play Areas

- ~ Treetop Play
a dry play area inspired by the movement of birds in tree canopies
- ~ Egg Splash
a wet play area inspired by bird eggs



Sky Amphitheatre

- ~ 'Predators on Wings'
presentation featuring eagles, hawks and other birds of prey.
- ~ 'Wonders of the World'
presentation that is simply awe-inspiring about birds.

Gawk at these birds

There are 3,500 birds representing over 400 species, of which 24% are threatened. We encourage you to focus on only selected groups to best achieve your learning outcomes. Here are some suggestions:



Hornbills



Parrots



Penguins



Flamingos



**Bird
Paradise**

Penguins



Penguins are flightless birds.

~ They swim, waddle, hop and slide on their bellies



Not all penguins live in cold places

~ Some penguins, like the African penguin, never see snow.
~ Galapagos Penguins swim in waters as warm as 30°C.



Penguins come in different sizes

~ Largest: Emperor Penguin (about 130cm tall)
~ Smallest: Little Penguin (about 33cm tall)

Try these at

@ Interpretive Wall

Invite your class to move around like penguins.

Swim, waddle or hop

Watch the video on the life cycle of king penguins and then invite your class to huddle like king penguin chicks.

King penguin chicks huddle together to keep warm while their parents are out fishing at sea.

Invite the children to compare their height with that of the penguins on the wall.

Point out the largest and smallest penguin.

B

Penguin Cove:

@ Exhibit

Pick 1 penguin and describe what it is doing.

Have your class mimic the penguin for 10 seconds.

Describe the exhibit to your class.

Ice, rocks, water, cold

Invite them to feel the cool glass.
Please remind children not to knock on the glass as this action will stress the penguins.

Pick 1 penguin and describe its features to your class.

Beak, flippers, webbed feet, black & white, feathers, tall/short, yellow crests

In the wild, penguins and polar bears do not exist together. Penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. Polar bears live in the North Pole (Arctic).

Find out more about penguins [here](#)

Spot Me at **B** Penguin Cove

About Penguin Cove

- ~ Features one of the world's largest sub-Antarctic, cold salt-water habitats for penguins.
- ~ The water and air temperature are maintained at a low of 8°C for the cool comfort of the penguins.
- ~ Has special lighting that mimics the changes in day length in the different seasons – all to simulate the natural habitat of the penguins.

Look out for the **white markings** that resemble a headset!



Gentoo Penguin

Look out for the **black crest feathers** and **yellow 'eyebrows'**



Northern Rockhopper Penguin

Look out for the **yellow teardrop patch**



King Penguin

Look out for the **pink skin patches** around its eyes and the base of its bill.



Humboldt Penguin

Feathers

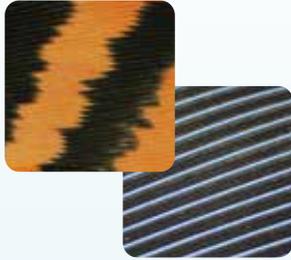
Try these at



**Feathers
Discovery Hub**



**Heart of
Africa**



Only birds have feathers

~ Feathers come in all colours and patterns

Name the colours and patterns on the feathers to your class.

*Yellow, green, brown, white, black
Stripes, spots*

Spot a bird that is blue/white/brown.

Count the birds that are of that colour.



There are different types of feathers on a bird

~ You can find feathers on its head, body and wings

Use the light buttons at "Find these Feathers" section to show the different types of feathers on a bird.

Pick 1 bird. Describe the feathers to your children.

Colour, shape, pattern, length



Different feathers have different uses

~ Feathers help birds move and keep them warm

Invite your class to act like birds walking, flying and keeping warm.

Increase difficulty by varying the speed and adding 'freeze'.

Pick 1 bird. Have your children imitate what the bird is doing.

Sleeping, flying, drinking, eating, resting, keeping warm, dancing

Find out more about bird feathers [here](#)



Spot Me at **D** Heart of Africa

About Heart of Africa

~ Largest aviary in Bird Paradise
~ Also the most forested aviary, many original large trees are retained



Saddlebill

Long, sharp beak to jab fish and hold wriggling prey



Grey Parrot

Sharp, hook-like beak to crack open fruits, nuts and seeds



Lesser Flamingo

Curved beak with **comb-like filters** to trap algae and shrimps in water



Superb Starling

Sharp, pointed beak that acts as tweezers to catch insects.

Nests

Try these at

E Nests
Discovery Hub

F Wings of Asia



Nests are not birds' homes

- ~ Birds build nests to lay eggs and keep them safe
- ~ Not all birds build nests

Point out a nest with eggs or chicks to your class

Find your favourite nest. Describe how it looks like.

Shape (circle, round), size (big/small, long), colour (brown)



Birds use different things to build nests

- ~ Twigs, leaves, mud, feathers or even plastic straws

Count the number of nests together with the children

Use natural loose parts (e.g. leaves, twigs) from the ground to create a nest.

Name the materials.



Birds build nests in many places

- ~ On the ground, and in trees, tunnels, cliffs, caves, buildings.

Point out 3 different places where nests can be found.

Spot the different nesting sites!

Tree branch, tree hole, cave, tunnel, ground

Find out more about bird nests [here](#)

Spot Me at **F** Wings of Asia

About Wings of Asia

Features some of Asia's most threatened species such as the black-faced spoonbill.



Green Peafowl

Sharp claws
for scratching the ground to find insects, seeds and fruits.



Black-faced Spoonbill

Long, thin legs
to wade in the water to find food like fish and shrimps.

Additional talking point:
Bill is shaped like a spoon;
used to stir up mud to snag fish



Papuan Hornbill

Strong, sharp claws
to grip onto their food and to hold onto tree branches

Additional talking point:
Large, long bill to reach fruits on branches.



Bar-headed Goose

Webbed feet
act like paddles to help the bird swim in water.