

The Bobolink & Biodiversity

(1)

This Document

Are you working from a paper copy of this document? The original pdf is located at

<http://www.peoplenaturefood.ca/kids2017.html>

KEEP THIS PAGE OPEN ON YOUR LAPTOP SO THAT THE VIDEO LINKS ARE EASY TO USE

The student activity includes (1) teacher directed discussion using the “Quick Facts For Kids” and supported with selected “Video Links For This Activity” (2) a colouring page that offers a learning opportunity about agricultural grassland habitat conservation (3) a word search to practice word recognition and reinforce some concepts related to the learning experience.

(2)

Quick Facts For Kids

The Bobolink is a bird.

It looks really great with its' fancy colour patterns.

It has a cool song that it sings. It sings its' song while flying. Other birds don't do that.

The Bobolink is a “threatened species” in Ontario but it loves the Kincardine area.

It spends most of its life in far away places. (Brazil and Argentina).

In spring it flies 10 000 km, all the way to Kincardine.

The male gets there first, about May 7. He finds a place on the ground in the middle part of a hayfield and builds a nest. It is often the same field where he lived last year.

The female gets there two weeks later.

The eggs are laid in May and June. The babies are mostly full grown in the middle of July.

The Bobolink parents catch a lot of insects and feed those to their babies. This helps farmers with crops.

Farmers cut grass in their fields to make hay, but the Bobolink babies are there in their nests.

Some farmers leave the middle of the field where the birds are. These farmers cut the grass in the middle to make hay later on in the summer. At this time the babies have grown up and have flown away so they are safe. In the same way cows can graze middle paddocks after grazing outside paddocks. Check out this pic from a hay field on our farm...



Biodiversity is a word that means the Earth has many different kinds of living things. Each living thing is like a link in a chain. It is only when the links are together that the chain can work properly. If a link goes missing from the middle, the chain becomes two short pieces that aren't as good as the long one.

Teachers can learn more for their own interest by listening to the podcasts “The Bobolink As A Notion” and “Meet The River”

<http://www.peoplenaturefood.ca/podcast.html>

(3)

Video Links For This Activity

These links are in an order that makes sense to me, but go ahead and show them in any order you want.

A.

This is just for fun...”**Bobolink Pink**” from the old cartoon series.

(animated cartoon, 6 min 24 s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whtZk7OokfY>

B.

Show a minute or so of this **FARMER CUTTING GRASS TO MAKE HAY**.

(farm video, 2 min 29 s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBdXOrXbrgg>

C.

This video will help kids to see that **making hay at the wrong time and place is not good** for Bobolinks.

(animated, 1 min 43 s)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VnuTFuBj_o

D.

This video shows a close up of a Bobolink **nest in a pasture** with cows.

(farm video, 0 min 59 s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7f38Ct9Tuo>

E.

Show these during colouring, and pause them at times so that the kids can see the **Bobolinks' feather patterns while colouring**.

(wildlife video, 4 min 36 s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TXIrXiyW6o>

(wildlife video, 2 min 5 s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W0j8BPPELaw>

F.

This video is about caring for streambanks in order to improve biodiversity on farms. Show it after colouring and **think about biodiversity with each living thing like a link in a useful chain.**

(animated, 1 min 48 s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiixoTkhnBA>

(4)

I hope that went well. If there are typos or dead links please let me know :)

Consider sending pictures of kids' work so that it can be posted at the website and celebrated...

... or maybe pics of your class having fun while learning about Bobolinks and biodiversity...

... or even an audio recording of your class as they learn

Tom_Franklin@bwdsb.on.ca is my school email address

or

thomas.franklin458@gmail.com

Name: _____

I N S E C T S A X D U X T E F
D R B S M I D D L E G H R R M
R E X Q P D L E I F A U M E X
I W T K O E S C H Y T O J M E
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L G Y Y C G M G E I A W A E T



BIRD
BOBOLINK
BRAZIL
CHAIN
EGGS
FARMER
FIELD
HAY
INSECTS
JULY
KINCARDINE
MAY
MIDDLE
NEST
PASTURE
SPECIES





Hay can be made on the edges of a field, and the middle part can be cut and baled last. *Bobolinks make their nests in the middle of hay fields.*

Cattle on pasture can eat the grass in outside paddocks first. Later they can graze the middle paddocks. *Bobolinks make their nests in the middle paddocks of a pasture.*

www.peoplenaturefood.ca

This activity was created by Tom Franklin, with art by Juliana Hawke, and with support from Doug Franklin in memory of his brother Stan.