

River of Words

MUSINGS ON THE
PORT ROYAL SOUND
THROUGH
ART AND POETRY



EXPLORING
SHOREBIRDS & SEABIRDS
THROUGH

Creative Collages



Produced by Alana Adams
Arts Center of Coastal Carolina



Table of Contents

1. Lesson Overview	4
2. Creative Collages Art Project	5-9
3. Examples	10
4. Curriculum Connections and References	11

APPENDIX

1. Coastal Birds in SC	13
2. Seabirds	15-16
3. Shorebirds	17-19
4. Birds of the SE Atlantic Coast	20

Lesson Overview

Using the resources in the APPENDIX, students will learn about the vital role SC plays in the lives of coastal bird species and will examine similarities and differences in Shorebirds and Seabirds. After researching examples of each subgroup, students will then choose one species that they would like to work with for a creative collage.

PRO TIP There are a great collection of images to work from at the Hilton Head Audubon Society's Instagram page!!
#hiltonheadaudubon



Painted Bunting



Snowy Egret



Bald Eagle

Creative Collages

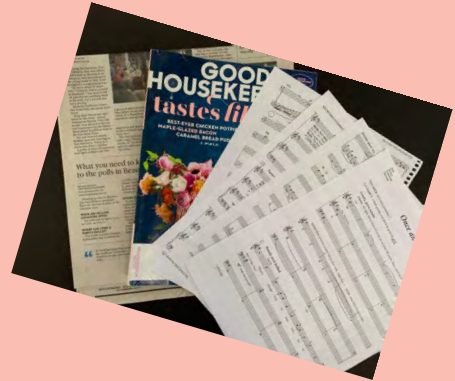
A collage is a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper glued to a piece of paper or canvas . A collage may sometimes include magazine and newspaper clippings, ribbons, paint, bits of colored or handmade papers, portions of other artwork or texts, photographs and other found objects.

Using texture rubbings, magazines, newspaper, and other textured papers they will then create a collage of an avian inhabitant from our watershed.



MATERIALS

- Image of seabird or shorebird to use as a reference
- 9x12 or 8x10 sturdy white paper for backing
- Crayons
- Thin white paper for texture rubbings
- Variety of textured surfaces
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, or oil pastels



PROCEDURES

STEP 1: Find objects and surfaces that have texture and use crayons to create texture rubbing on the white paper. Leaves, produce bags, wooden floors, concrete surfaces and other things around the house will create interesting textures that you can use in your collage.



STEP 2: Gather materials from the list. You would rather have more textured paper to work with than you need. Think about what colors you will would like to use in your collage. You can try to make it more realistic with earth colors, or use your “artistic license” to re-color your bird!

PROCEDURES (cont.)

STEP 3: Using light pressure so you can erase, sketch your bird on the white paper. Be sure to draw large! It is not important to add details such as feather textures right now—just sketch the shape of the bird paying careful attention to proportions.

While all birds have the same basic parts, they can vary greatly in shape of the body, proportion of the head, shape and size of the beak, legs, etc. Also, note where the feathers may change color patterns.

Next, you may want to sketch in a horizon line, rocks, tree branches, etc. to indicate habitat.



PROCEDURES (cont.)

STEP 4: Next, tear and cut your patterned papers into small pieces and arrange the shapes. Continue to layer more paper until you cover the entire page.

STEP 5: Use glue stick to glue them down to the background.

STEP 6: (OPTIONAL) Use Sharpie pen to outline shapes or oil pastels, crayons, or markers to add extra hints of detail and color.



EXAMPLES



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Visual Resources

<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/birds/>

App: Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab

What's that bird? Answer 5 questions or upload a photo and Merlin Bird ID will help you solve the mystery

Coastal Discovery Museum Conservation in the Classroom Sharing with Shorebirds program.

<https://www.coastaldiscovery.org/home/discover-and-learn/school-programs/>

Audubon Newhall Preserve

Take a nature walk and go bird watching and this preserve on the south end of Hilton Head Island. Trail guides availa-

REFERENCES

Dnr.sc.gov

friendsofhuntingisland.org/birds

hiltonheadaudubon.org/birds-of-hilton-head/

APPENDIX

Coastal Birds in SC



South Carolina is home to many coastal bird species, including seabirds and shorebirds. Our state plays a vital role in the lives of these species from providing nesting and feeding habitat, to migration stopover and wintering grounds. South Carolina DNR protects areas where these birds roost, nest, feed, and raise their young. At the SCDNR coastal bird program, they monitor population trends, protect nesting and feeding areas, manage and enhance habitat, and conduct research to help coastal bird populations in South Carolina.



Seabirds

Seabirds nest together in large groups on coastal islands and barrier beaches and feed on schooling fish. By nesting in large colonies, seabirds can keep an eye out for predators and can actively defend their nests from unwanted intruders.

- Pelicans, Terns, Gulls, Skimmers, etc.
- Diet of Fishes
- Colonial Nesters
- Defend Nests (dive bomb, call loudly, etc.)

Shorebirds

Shorebirds appear in many sizes and shapes with bills and legs that vary in length depending on how the shorebird feeds. They prefer to inhabit mudflats or inter-tidal areas, and feed on invertebrates found in the soil. Most shorebirds are migratory, traveling long distances from their breeding grounds to their wintering areas. They are solitary nesters and have camouflaged eggs.

- Sandpipers, Plovers, Oystercatchers, etc.
- Diet of Invertebrates
- Solitary Nesters
- Use camouflage and distraction to protect nest

Seabirds



Brown Pelican

Seabirds, such as Pelicans, Terns, Skimmers and Gulls gather in large groups to nest together in colonies during the breeding season. Colonies can consist of hundreds to thousands of birds and are usually found on isolated coastal islands and inlets of barrier beaches. Isolated islands provide excellent habitat for nesting seabirds, are often free from mammalian predators, less disturbed by humans, and are usually located close to foraging habitat. Currently, seabirds only nest on a few coastal islands in South Carolina with the most active colonies located in Charleston County.

Seabirds such as Black Skimmers and terns nest directly on the ground creating depressions in sand or shell to lay their eggs. Eggs are camouflaged with speckles and blend into the substrate; chicks are cryptic and are mobile soon after hatching, often hiding in low vegetation. Pelicans build their nests out of grass, twigs and sticks and nests are sometimes constructed in low shrubs and small trees. Pelican eggs are white and hatched chicks are naked and remain in or near the nest bowl for several months. Seabirds are piscivorous and feed on schooling fish. Pelicans and terns typically plunge dive for food while skimmers have a specialized foraging strategy: skimming their bill along the water's surface to capture prey.

South Carolina has lost much of its historical seabird nesting habitat due to coastal development and erosion. Presently the majority of South Carolina's Least Terns now nest on gravel rooftops.

Seabirds (cont.)

Seabird species that nest in coastal South Carolina

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status *
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Highest Priority, Species of Concern (SC)
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	High Priority
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Highest Priority
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	High Priority
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Highest Priority, Species of Concern (SC)
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	Not Classified in SWAP
Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Highest Priority, Threatened (SC)
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	Highest Priority
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Highest Priority

Shorebirds



American Oystercatcher



American Oystercatcher eggs

Shorebirds appear in many sizes and shapes with bills and legs that vary in length **depending on how the shorebird feeds**. In coastal South Carolina, shorebirds occur on shorelines, islands, marsh edges, inlets, mudflats, on mounds of washed oyster shells and in managed wetland impoundments. Three species of shorebirds nest on South Carolina beaches, while many other species migrate through or spend the winter on our coast.

Shorebirds are some of the world's most amazing **migrants**. Many species nest in the arctic and sub-arctic zones of the globe and spend the winter in the Southern Hemisphere. During their travels, they stop in large groups to rest and fuel themselves to sustain their migration. South Carolina provides both migration stop over sites for flocks of thousands of these birds and also wintering grounds for birds that do not travel as far south. To help understand shorebird populations, SCDNR conducts surveys of shorebirds throughout the year.

Shorebirds (cont.)

Migratory and/or Nesting Shorebirds of South Carolina

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status *	Season
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	Highest Priority	Nesting/ Migratory
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Moderate Priority	Migratory
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Not Classified in SWAP	Nesting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Not Classified in SWAP	Nesting/ Migratory
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Moderate Priority	Migratory
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Moderate Priority	Migratory
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Highest Priority, Federally Endangered	Migratory
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Highest Priority, Federally Endangered	Migratory
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Moderate Priority	Migratory
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromous griseus</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory

Shorebirds (cont.)

Migratory and/or Nesting Shorebirds of South Carolina

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status *	Season
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Moderate Priority	Migratory
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	High Priority	Migratory
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Highest Priority	Migratory
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Moderate Priority	Migratory
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	High Priority	Nesting/ Migratory
Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Highest Priority, State Threatened	Nesting/ Migratory

Bald Eagle



Birds of the Southeast Atlantic Coast



Anhinga



Black-whiskered Vireo



Yellow-throated Warbler



Prairie Warbler



American Oystercatcher



Ruddy Turnstone



Red-shouldered Hawk



Purple Gallinule



Gray Kingbird



Forster's Tern



Black-crowned Night-Heron



Reddish Egret



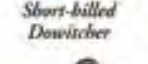
Great Egret



Ring-billed Gull



Glossy Ibis



Short-billed Dowitcher



Common Moorhen



Marbled Godwit



Willet



Sandpiper



Semi-palmated Plover



Black-bellied Plover



Peregrine Falcon



Green Heron



Great Blue Heron White Form



Double-crested Cormorant



Common Loon



Laughing Gull



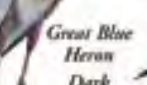
Turkey Vulture



Short-tailed Hawk



Belted Kingfisher



Great Blue Heron Dark Form



Black Skimmer



Pied-billed Grebe



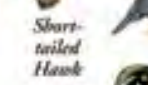
Red-tailed Hawk



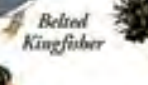
Cattle Egret



Osprey



Lesser Yellowlegs



Royal Tern



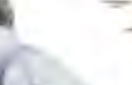
Red-bellied Woodpecker



Black-necked Stilt



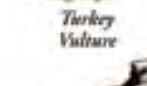
Black Vulture



Wood Stork



White Ibis



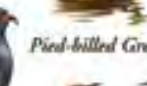
Mangrove Cuckoo



Snowy Egret



Least Tern



American Bittern



Horned Grebe



Spotted Sandpiper



Little Blue Heron



Limpkin



Wilson's Plover



Piping Plover



American Coot



Killdeer



Piloted Woodpecker



Dunlin



Herring Gull



Brown Pelican



Sandhill Crane



American Kestrel



Swallow-tailed Kite



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron



Tricolored Heron



White Ibis



Wood Stork



Cattle Egret