

Overview:

In this lesson, the students will recognize the diverse population of birds that is found in the Mariana Islands and identify the value of their presence in our environment.

Content Objective:

- Compare and contrast the terms endangered and extinct.
- Identify and explain the role birds play in the ecology of the forest.
- Explain the importance and result of Seed Dispersal.
- Identify birds of the Mariana Islands.

Language Objective:

- Listen attentively and participate in class discussion.
- Research important information of a chosen bird in the Mariana Island and share with the musical, pair and share activity.
- Create an awareness poster of an endangered bird that will be advertised within the campus.

Materials:

- Chart/Butcher paper
- Coloring Utensils (Markers, Crayons, etc...)
- Paper
- Pencil/Pen
- Notebook
- Internet access
- Birds of the Mariana Islands Poster (Available from DFW on Saipan or DAWR on Guam)

Background:

The Mariana Islands has a vast variety of bird population which is threatened of being endangered or worse, extinct. The most important threat to the birds is the possible spread of the introduced brown tree snake, which alone eradicated the bird population on Guam. Certain cases of brown tree snakes being spotted on Saipan which launched a new division in the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CNMI) called BTS (Brown Tree Snake). Other causes which may lead to the endangerment or extinction to the Birds of the Mariana Islands are issues of over hunting of bird species like the Mariana Fruit Dove known as the "Tottot" or "Mwee'mwe", and the deforestation of land for economic growth.

Lesson Procedures

1. As a class the teacher will introduce the lesson by asking students to identify and explain the difference between endangered and extinct. Teacher will allow time for students to respond and share.

2. The teacher will then show a poster of birds found in the Marianas (available at DFW, or teacher could access certain sites that displays the different birds in the Mariana Islands such as "<http://www.micronesiabirdconservation.org/birds-of-the-northern-mariana-islands.html>) and ask students if they could recognize and even identify any of the birds in the poster. Teacher will allow time for students to respond and share.
3. Teacher will then share his experience with being a part of the EBL project and how it is also focused on the part bird's play in the ecology of the forest (seed dispersal).
4. The teacher will share to the students (about his experience) difference of being in the jungle in Guam compared to Saipan where there is still a great population of birds. The teacher will then have each student paired and then each pair choose a bird to do a brief report on, its family, genus, species, local name (ex: Mariana Fruit Dove in Chamorro : Tottot Carolinian: Mwee'mwe) its description, diet, is it endangered/extinct.
5. Students will share/present their chosen bird with the musical pair and share activity
 - Teacher will play a music which will be the students cue to stand up (holding on to their report) and randomly walk around the classroom.
 - Once the music stops, each student will then pair with the classmate that is closes to them.
 - Each pair will then distinguish who will be an A and B.
 - The teacher will then allow the A to share first (about 3 minutes) and then the B could go next.
 - This will continue for at least 2 more rounds and then everyone will return to their sits.
6. The class will then be divided into groups of 4. Each group will choose any bird of the Marianas that is classified as endangered where they will create an awareness poster that will be posted around the school campus where students are likely to see them such as the library, cafeteria, office, etc...
 - Each group will display and share the information of their poster to the class before having it posted on campus.
 - Each poster will have to have a picture of the endangered bird.
 - On the poster, it will give the important descriptions of the bird.
 - It will explain the important role birds play in the jungle (seed dispersal)
 - It will share the possibilities of what would happen if the bird would go extinct.

Assessment

- Poster rubric
- Short group presentation (Musical Pair and Share)
- Student participation
- Anecdotal Notes

