



My nature connection

WONDERING
ABOUT
WOODPECKERS

GRADES: 1-5
TIME: 40-60 MIN.

KNOCK KNOCK, WHO'S THERE?

Eleven different woodpecker species reside in Minnesota, so they are not an uncommon bird to see or hear throughout the year. When you listen to the echoing sounds of these birds tapping on the bark of trees, they may be doing a few different tasks.

Woodpeckers use their sharp narrow beaks and long sticky tongues to eat insects, spiders, and even sap in trees. They may also be excavating part of the tree for their nest or tapping to communicate with other nearby birds.

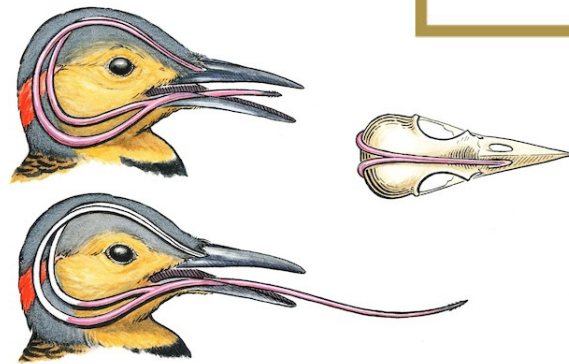
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Pen or pencil
- Comfortable shoes and clothing for the outdoors
- Optional binoculars

A WELL-DESIGNED BIRD

It might seem like woodpeckers would get a headache from repeatedly hitting their heads against trees. Luckily their necks, beaks, and skulls prevent that from happening.

They have strong neck muscles that allow them to forcefully hammer a tree, while their extremely sharp and narrow beaks can slide into small crevices with little resistance. Their sticky tongues, stored around the head cavity all the way to the nasal passage, can grab grubs and other food from within the holes. Even their skulls are made out of a spongy bone material that helps cushion their brains from the hammering impact.



STUDENTS WILL:

- Observe the behaviors and impacts of woodpeckers
- Try to identify different species that live in Minnesota

MINNESOTA WOODPECKER ID



Downy Woodpecker



Hairy Woodpecker



**Yellow-bellied
Woodpecker**



Northern Flicker



**Red-Headed
Woodpecker**



**Red-Bellied
Woodpecker**



Pileated Woodpecker



**Black-Backed
Woodpecker**



**American Three-Toed
Woodpecker**

Photos from:

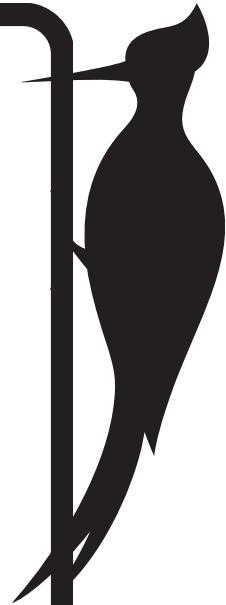


Winter's Woodpeckers | March-
April 2018 | Minnesota
Conservation Volunteer

Observations

Use your observation skills on a walk or watching from your window. If you see a woodpecker, do your best to draw what you see and understand what it is doing.

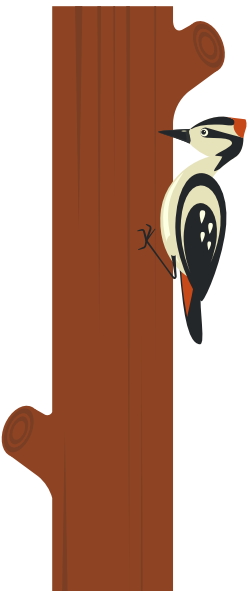
DRAW WHAT YOU SEE:



What type of woodpecker do you think it is?:

BEHAVIOR OBSERVATIONS:

What is the woodpecker doing? Do you think it is looking for food, building a nest, or communicating with other birds? Why?



EDUCATION STANDARDS

Grade Level

Science Education Standard

Grade 1

1.1.1.1 When asked, "How do You Know?" students support their answer with observations.

Grade 2

2.1.1.2.1 Raise questions about the natural world and seek answers by making careful observations, noting what happens when you interact with an object, and sharing the answers with others.

Grade 3

3.1.1.2.3 Maintain a record of observations, procedures and explanations, being careful to distinguish between actual observations and ideas about what was observed

Grade 5

5.4.1.1.1 Describe how plant and animal structures and their functions provide an advantage for survival in a given natural system.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

take a short survey at: campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection

or here: Kids Survey - [click here](#) | Teachers/Parents Survey - [click here](#)