

TROPICAL BIRDS



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Grades 4 - 5

Time: 2-3 classes



Materials: Pencils
Heavy white paper
Watercolor paint & brushes
Fine tip black markers
Pictures of parrots and other tropical birds
Bird field guide & map of the world
Edward Lear's lithographs, Illustrations of the Family Psittaciae, or Parrots

Please consult our
Detailed Art Instructions
for complete details and
recommendations on
artwork creation.

Procedure:

- 1) **Discuss parrots and other tropical birds.** Look at pictures of the birds discussed and note their characteristics. Locates habitats on a world map.
- 2) **Using the field guide, discuss parts of a bird - beak shapes, types of feathers on the wings and tails, etc...**
- 3) **Have students pick a photo of a bird and compare them to Edward Lear's pictures.**
Note the colors and backgrounds.
- 4) **Model for students how to block in the bird body on their paper.** By doing this first, the bird will be the right size and in the middle of the paper. Remind students to draw their bird large. They should keep the drawing fairly simple - not too many details. They should include the main feathers, like wing and tail feathers.
- 5) **Model for the students how to create foliage behind their bird.** Look at photos for ideas.
- 6) **The students should paint in the bird first using the colors in their photo.**
- 7) **The background should be painted in colors that contrast from the bird.**
- 8) **The last step is to go over their pencil lines with a fine tip black marker.**

Submitted by: Debbie Flynt - Art Instructor for Sango Elementary, Clarksville, TN