

This learning resource was created by LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture as part of The Wild Escape project, in partnership with Art Fund and Leeds Museums and Galleries

The Wild Escape: Red Kite Learning Resource

Who this resource is for: EYFS learners

What materials you'll need: Outdoor resources (twigs, leaves, etc.), recycled cardboard, cereal packets, egg boxes, recycled available scraps of material, felt, brown paint, coloured tissue paper.

NB: these resources are contingent upon the activity – please read about the activity before collecting the relevant resources. You may also choose to use alternative materials.

Aims & objectives:

The activities in this resource are designed to take 2-3 sessions but can be adapted depending on your group and setting.

Learners will:

- Learn about a UK native creature
- Learn about its natural habitat, ecosystem and threats to its environment
- Use this knowledge to create an artistic response which can be entered into The Wild Escape online exhibition.

Curriculum links:

EYFS Framework:

Understanding the world: *learners will “Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants”*

Expressive arts and design: *learners will “safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function”.*

Useful links:

[History of Red Kites in the UK](#)

[Red kite facts - RSPB](#)

[Birds of Prey in Leeds](#)

[Video of red kites feeding](#)

[Red kite call](#)

Activities:

1. Using the websites listed above, introduce learners to red kites. Show learners images or the video of red kites and ask them to name what type of creature it is, encouraging them to use physical actions such as Makaton signs as well. Ask learners what other birds they might know, so they can start to think about red kites in relation to other birds, for example asking if a red kite is bigger or smaller than a blackbird or a duck.



This learning resource was created by LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture as part of The Wild Escape project, in partnership with Art Fund and Leeds Museums and Galleries

2. Listen to the sound a red kite makes and watch the short video. Ask learners to imitate this sound. If appropriate and if you have space, ask learners to stand up and move around the space as a red kite, thinking about its big wing-span and imitating the sound it makes.
3. Looking after red kites – through a teacher input, talk to learners about what they need to live, such as clothes, food, warmth and safety. Then elicit from learners what red kites would need to live – for this you could ask them to think about their feathers to keep them warm and camouflaged, what they eat (worms and small mammals), and what might threaten them, such as eating bad things (being poisoned by rat traps).
4. Making a nest – explore nest making with learners, explaining that red kites will make nests high up in trees and will use dead twigs and sheep’s wool to line them. Leading up to the breeding season, red kites will fill their nests with other materials to pad them up, anything from crisp packets, carrier bags and even underwear have been found in red kites' nests! Gather outdoor resources such as twigs and leaves, and use cotton wool balls to create a red kites nest. Use some recycled cardboard from cereal packets or egg boxes, or scraps of material or felt to line them and make them comfortable for a red kite to nest in. As you do this activity with the learners, talk to them about making a home for the birds and explain what the birds will use their home for.
5. Create a red kite – using materials available to you, make a red kite with learners. Here are some suggestions for how you could do this:
 - Use brown paint to make hand-prints of birds where the fingers are the feathers, and add eyes, a beak and feet.
 - Cut out card templates of a bird and ask learners to stick brown, yellow and white feathers on
 - Make a collage of a red kite using brown, red, white, yellow and orange tissue paper to create the effect of its different coloured feathers.

