



Connecting Coffee in Your Neighborhood to Bird Conservation

STUDENT ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Materials Needed:

- Coffee labels
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Notebook/paper
- Pencil or pen

Preparation Instructions:

1. Look at a coffee label at home and/or in your local store.
2. Write down information that will help you research the origins of the coffee.
 - a. Make sure you write down the name of the coffee, any companies shown, and any website information found on the label to help with your research.
 - b. If you see any certification information (shade-grown coffee, bird-friendly coffee, rainforest alliance, etc.), be sure to write that down too.
 - c. You can reference this article to know what information on the label may be relevant.

Introduction (Read before doing the activity)

What does it mean to be a conservationist? How can the coffee sold in your neighborhood help migratory birds? What advantage can shade-grown coffee systems provide to farmers? Shade-grown coffee helps both birds and people by conserving rainforest habitat and contributing to biodiversity, while providing sustainable income for farmers.

Activity Instructions:

1. You are a conservationist who wants to encourage people to buy shade-grown coffee to protect migratory bird habitat. Research where the coffee you selected comes from and find out if it is shade-grown or sun-grown from the information provided on the label.
 - a. Below are some resources for starting out your research:
 - i. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/making-sense-of-coffee-labels-shade-grown-organic-fair-trade-bird-friendly/>
 - ii. <http://www.coffeehabitat.com/certification-guide/>
 - iii. <http://www.coffeehabitat.com/2013/01/popular-coffee-brands/>

2. Use the information you obtain in your research and combine it with the information you learned about migratory birds and coffee farms to design a brochure with information on how buying and/or selling shade-grown coffee is beneficial to both birds and the farmers who grow the coffee.

- a. You can use words and pictures on your brochure – be sure to include:
 - i. the name of the coffee you chose
 - ii. any certification information that was on the label
 - iii. where the coffee was grown
 - iv. which method was used to grow the coffee (shade-grown or sun-grown)
 - v. why shade-grown is beneficial to birds
 - vi. why shade-grown is beneficial to farmers

3. Present your brochure to the class, parents, and/or store owners.

Conclusion

The items we chose to buy can make a difference to birds and other people. By thinking about where things come from and how they are made, we can help birds, people, communities, and the environment.

