



Birds are busy around spring time but winter is a great time to spot them as there are no leaves on the trees yet! It's starting to warm up outside and days are getting a little longer. Birds are happily singing as they stretch their wings and prepare for a new season.

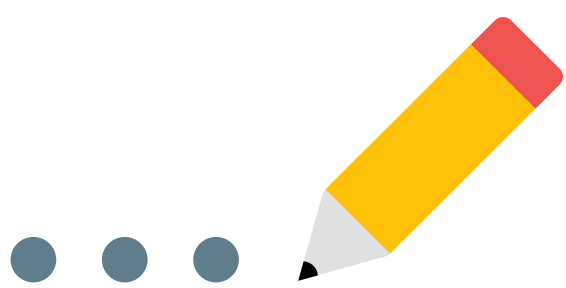
Why do they sing? Birds songs will help them find a mate. Singing a loud, clear song helps them tell potential mates where they are. Birds will also use calls to let other birds know where their territory starts and ends.

ACTIVITY

This activity requires good listening skills, quiet concentration and patience:

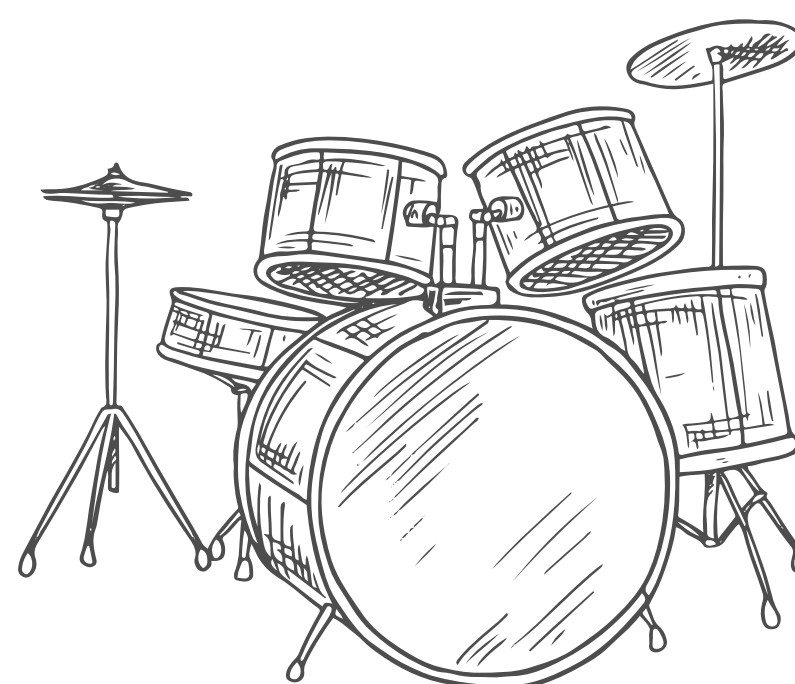
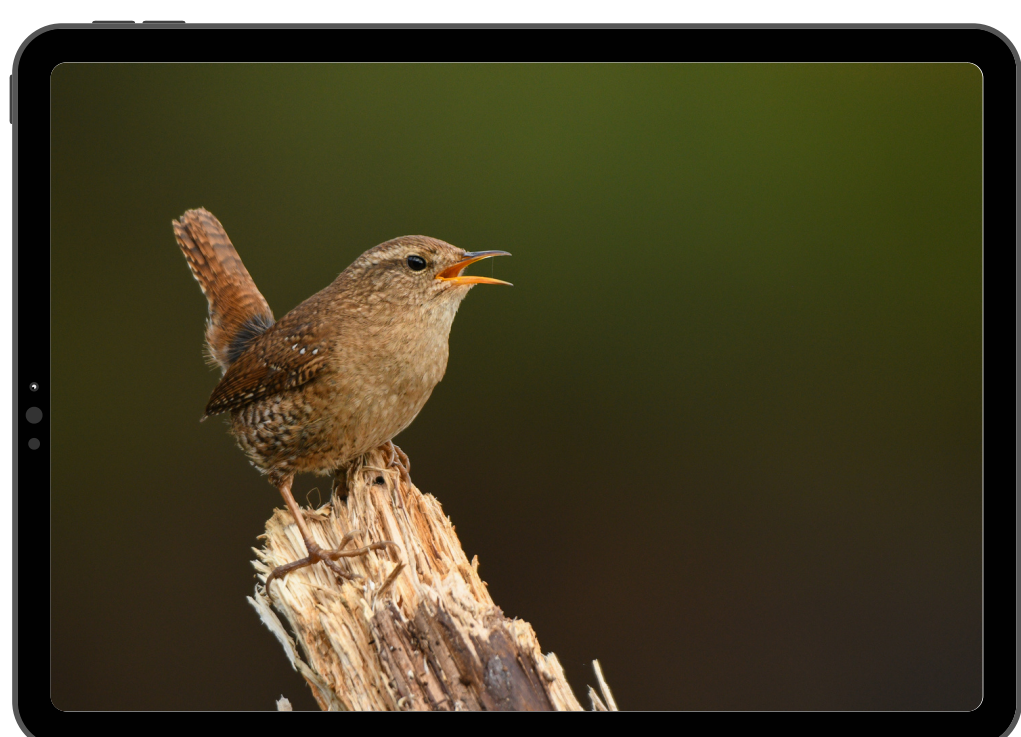


- Listen carefully to the birds outside, take an audio recording of them on your phone if you want. Why not try listening to the most common birds seen in the UK - Robins, Wren, Blue Tit, Blackbird, House Sparrow etc.
- Visit www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/ and see if you have managed to identify some of the birds when you are out.
- Repetition, repetition, repetition - it takes time to learn them.



Can you pick out different birds songs?

- 1) Describe each birds song the best you can! It might help to write down in your own words what it sounds like.
- 2) Try and use association to ID them. As an example a wren call sounds like a drum solo with all the trills and notes in its song.



3) If you are more of a visual learner why not try drawing the bird songs you hear. Are the songs sharp or soft and squiggle what you hear?



How do Birds sing?

How do birds sing? How do they all manage to produce different notes and pitches so that we can identify the differences between them?

Just as humans sing by creating vibrations in flaps at the back of our throat (the larynx) birds do something similar. Vocal sounds are made by a special organ only birds possess: the syrinx. Its named after the Greek word for panpipes.

Birds have two sets of flaps and can make a different sounds with each set simultaneously.

Even the smallest Birds can make some impressively loud songs

