

WildFiles.TV

Teachers' Guide for

Feather of Hope

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SERIES SYNOPSIS

WildFiles.TV is a 13-part, interactive science and nature television series for school-aged children. Each half-hour episode profiles a different animal species in a dramatic story of a young character with an animal mystery or a problem to solve. Hosts Chris and Ava, from the Wild Files research station, and real-life Canadian scientists provide information and facts about the animals throughout each episode.

Detailed files of the same 13 animals are also found in the virtual clubhouse, *WildFiles.TV* Interactive. Here children can extend their science learning from the videos and explore the wildlife files and over 100 activities including games, puzzles, quizzes and challenges. The activities are designed to be fun, appealing and accessible to a variety of learning styles with the use of brightly coloured graphics, video, animation, audio, interactive activities and text.

WildFiles.TV promotes environmental consciousness while encouraging children's active exploration, problem solving, science learning and creativity. The dramatic storyline in the videos is used to present science concepts in an entertaining, yet realistic format.

DVD CONTENTS – Peregrine Falcon Episode

- 23-minute video
- Interactive animal content in text, audio, animation, cool facts, video clips and puzzles
- An original song about the animal, with lyrics
- 1 science project lesson plan
- 1 crossword puzzle with answer key
- 1 word search with answer key
- 1 quiz with answer key

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Science, Outdoor and Environmental Education, Social Studies, Health and Life Skills, Language Arts or Fine Arts and Information and Communication Technology.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (based on Alberta curriculum)

Grade 1: Needs of Animals and Plants

- Observe, describe and compare living things.
- Classify some common local plants and animals into groups on the basis of physical characteristics; e.g., adaptations for survival such as beaks, claws, or prickles.
- Identify examples of animals that are normally under human care (domesticated) and those that are normally independent of human care (wild).

Grade 3: Animal Life Cycles

- Classify a variety of animals, based on observable characteristics; e.g., limbs, teeth, body covering, overall shape, backbone.

- Observe and describe the growth and development of various species from a variety of groups and identify similarities and differences in their developmental sequences.
- Predict the next stages in the growth and development in various species and identify similarities and differences in their developmental sequences.
- Identify the food needs of animals from different groups and describe changes in how each animal obtains food through different stages of its life.
- Demonstrate awareness that parental care is characteristic of some animals and not of others, and identify examples of different forms of parental care.
- Demonstrate awareness that animals require different habitats in order to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter and space.
- Recognize adaptations of a young animal to its environment, and identify changes in its relationship to its environment as it goes through life.
- Identify examples of environmental conditions that may threaten animal survival, and identify examples of extinct animals.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the needs of animal studies, and demonstrate skills for their care.

Grade 4: Waste and Our World

- Identify kinds of wastes that may be toxic to people and to the environment.

Grade 6: Air and Aerodynamics

- Recognize that for living things to fly they must have significant lift to overcome the forces of gravity.
- Identify adaptations that enable birds to fly.
- Describe the means of propulsion for flying animals and for aircraft.

Grades 7-9: Outdoor and Environmental Education: Outdoor Core

- Students will develop skills in environmentally responsible outdoor activities appropriate to different seasons such as bird watching.

Grades 7-9: Outdoor and Environmental Education: Environmental Core

- Recognize natural changes in environments, such as extinction and succession.
- Develop knowledge of the diversity of life found within these environments.
- Interpret evidence of interaction between a living thing and its environment.

Grade 7: Interactions and Ecosystems

- Investigate and describe relationships between humans and their environments, and identify related issues and scientific questions in terms of interactions, interdependence, human impact and needs.
- Trace and interpret the flow of energy within an ecosystem by examining consumers, producers, decomposers, food webs, how matter is recycled and the effect of pollutants.
- Analyze a local environmental issue or problem, based on evidence from a variety of sources, and identify possible actions and consequences.

Grade 9: Environmental Chemistry

- Investigate and discuss in general terms the role of different substances in the environment in supporting or harming humans or living things such as DDT and biomagnification in food chains.

Grades 1-9: Health and Life Skills

- Relationship Choices: Understanding and Expressing Feelings
Many of the problems faced by the young characters in the *WildFiles.TV* episodes may be used to promote discussion under this general learning outcome. Problems such as resolving a dispute with a friend, feelings of sadness after a pet dies, fear of new situations, dealing with change, adapting to a new school environment or to the changes that accompany adolescence are all topics addressed in the series.

EPISODE TITLE: *Feather of Hope*

FEATURED ANIMAL: Peregrine Falcon

THEMES:

- Parental care
- Endangered Species
- Impact of pesticides on the environment
- Wildlife rehabilitation
- West Nile virus
- Falconry
- Death (of a pet or wild animal)

SUMMARY:

Terri rescues a sick falcon which later tests positive for exposure to West Nile virus.

Chris receives 'an emergency' call at the research station from Terri. Terri has found a sick Peregrine falcon and wants to know how she can help the bird. She's still sad about the death of her dog and doesn't want to see another animal die. Chris takes Terri and the Peregrine to see raptor expert Dr. Gord Court, who examines the bird and shares some facts about **Peregrine falcon size, adaptations** such as **flight feathers, nesting habits**, and male and female roles in **caring for the young**. The bird tests positive for exposure to **West Nile** virus and the care of the Peregrine is transferred to Falconer Alastair Franke for **rehabilitation**. Alastair, Chris and Terri discuss **falconry**, the birds' **diet** and **hunting behaviors**, and the **radio telemetry** equipment used to track falcons. Terri learns a lot about Peregrine Falcons and decides to channel her sadness about her dog's death into positive action: volunteering at the local Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

VOCABULARY: Video

Students can listen for these terms to find many of them defined in the video.

*(*Definitions found in the Wild Words glossary at www.wildfiles.tv)*

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| raptor* | migrate* | carnivores* |
| sexual size dimorphism (<i>size differences for males and females</i>) | encephalitis (<i>swelling of the brain</i>) | telemetry (<i>radio tracking</i>) |
| predators* | falconer | waiting on |
| regurgitate* | jesses (<i>leg straps for birds used in falconry</i>) | stoop* |
| | | mantling (<i>a bird covering its prey</i>) |

VOCABULARY: Interactive Content

(Definitions pop up on the DVD when terms are scrolled over)

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| aspect ratio | Kingdom | Falconiformes |
| wing loading | Phylum | tomial tooth |
| stoop | Class | moustache stripes |
| predators | Order | incubation |
| pesticide | Family | fledge |
| DDT | birds of prey | regurgitate |

SONG: "Oh Peregrine" – sing along with Chris! (See lyrics on pg.6).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (after viewing video and exploring the interactive content)

- Give examples of the Peregrine's special adaptations or characteristics that allow it to survive. How are these similar or different from human adaptations?
- Explain how a Peregrine falcon hunts its prey. What kind of food does a peregrine eat?
- Look at the Peregrine Wildlife file for information on DDT. What effect did DDT have on Peregrine falcons? Explain what was done to help them.

- What is a falconer? List the falconry terms you heard in the video.
- Have you ever found an injured bird? What happened? What did you do? What did the video tell us we should do when we find an injured bird?
- What did Terri learn from her experience rescuing this falcon? Have you ever lost a pet? How did you feel? What kinds of things helped you when this happened?

ACTIVITIES:

- After watching the video, have students review the interactive content in groups or independently. Once they have finished all the material, have them complete the Peregrine falcon word search, crossword puzzle or quiz to evaluate their learning.
- Take a class trip to a wildlife rehabilitation centre or have a guest speaker from the centre come to the school.
- Peregrine falcons are carnivores and hunt for their prey. Draw a diagram or write a paragraph explaining how a Peregrine falcon hunts its prey. Make a list of other animals that also hunt their prey. Use a chart to compare the Peregrine to these animals according to their species, prey, hunting method, habitat, etc.
- Make a list of Peregrine falcon adaptations. Write a 'pourquoi' tale about how the Peregrine falcon got its tomial tooth, or flight feathers, or another special adaptation.
- Research another endangered species in your area. Find out what can be done to help preserve this species. Make a poster or brochure to encourage others to help save this endangered species.
- Plan and produce a class webpage or magazine about wildlife rehabilitation. Interview wildlife biologists to find out about careers in this field.
- Read books about falconry and prepare a presentation for the class on a selection of topics: definition of falconry, type of birds used, training, equipment and terminology, history, falconry in literature like Shakespeare.
- Write a play, make a video, song, poem or newspaper article about the rescue of a sick animal.

HANDS ON SCIENCE:

Print out the complete lesson plan for this Hands on Science experiment.

Peregrine Falcon: Wild Wings

Peregrine Falcons are the world's fastest birds and this is due to the shape and size of their wings. Try building different paper airplanes to see how wing size and shape affect performance.

There are a total of 30 lesson plans for experiments and activities available to *WildFiles.TV* members on www.wildfiles.tv. Each activity is related to a science concept from an episode of *WildFiles.TV*.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES:

WildFiles.TV resource:

- a) Addresses specific learner expectations.
- b) Encourages students to develop and practice skills in science inquiry.
- c) Addresses a variety of learning styles.
- d) Applies to a range of grade levels and abilities.
- e) Shows animal species in their natural habitat.
- f) Is wildly humorous.

- g) Integrates subject matter across several subject areas.
- h) Is teacher-friendly.
- i) Provides students the opportunity to extend learning.
- j) Addresses the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) learning outcomes.
- k) Is interactive.
- l) Provides practice and study opportunities.

MORE WILDFILES.TV TITLES:

| Episode Title | Featured Animal |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Arachnophobia On the Loose | Tarantula |
| Big Ol' Moose | Moose |
| Hare We Go! | Snowshoe Hare |
| Just Can't Bear It | Black Bear |
| Lair of the Tiger | Tiger Salamander |
| Lone Wolf | Wolf |
| Owl for One, One for Owl | Barred Owl |
| Strong as a Muskox | Muskox |
| Tale of the Giant Beaver | Beaver |
| The Frog who Would be Prince | Wood Frog |
| You Go, Caribou | Caribou |
| You Say Buffalo, I Say Bison | Bison |

WildFiles.TV
"My Peregrine"
Song Lyrics

CHORUS:

Well Peregrine (well peregrine)
Good to see you again (good to see you again)
Now you're back (now you're back)
For another attack (for another attack)
Though you were gone (you were gone)
For much too long (too long)
You did win (you did win)
My peregrine (my peregrine)

A long time ago in a clear blue sky
There flew a bird, man, could it fly
Streaked like a jet and chased the fastest game
Then ate their heads - can you guess its name?

CHORUS

Then along came DDT
Which made their eggs all crumbly
Their numbers fell 'til we could not see
Anymore falcons near this city

For many years the sky was dry
No peregrine were seen to fly
But we cleaned things up, made a moral turn
And them peregrines - they did return

CHORUS

So here today they fly around
They tower nest in this here town
They're even back to where they've never been
These smiling birds with a pair of grins

Well Peregrine (well peregrine)
Good to see you again (good to see you again)
Now you're back (now you're back)
For another attack (for another attack)
But you were gone (you were gone)
For much too long (too long)
But you did win (you did win)
My peregrine (my peregrine)