Experiment

Students examine the structure of real feathers, finding out about their various characteristics and properties.

Students work in pairs, but they can also consult with other members of their group.

They decide for themselves how they are going to study the feathers. They can use:

- scissors, to cut up particular elements of the feather
- vessels containing water, to check how feathers behave in water and how long it takes them to dry
- rulers to measure various parts of the feather
- (kitchen) scales to check how much feathers weigh.

Constructing

Students – in groups – build a model bird using feathers.

Hand out a printed outline of a bird to each group. After cutting it out, students can stick it on cardboard. Then they use the feathers that they have brought to the lesson, sticking them onto the cardboard model. If it turns out that there aren't enough feathers, they can make feathers out of paper/tissue paper and use these instead. However, it is important that they are aware of the characteristic features of real feathers.
After they have finished creating their model birds, groups present them to the class, and by doing so consolidate the knowledge they have gained from the activities carried out during the lesson.