



Raptor Resource Project Lesson Plans

To find more plans, go to www.raptorresource.org

Lesson Plan: Who's Who? Mom or DM2

Grade/Level	Elementary
Time Allotment	45 minutes
Content Area(s)	Science

Objectives

- Students will identify observable traits on Mom and DM2.
- Students will use observable traits to explain or justify how they which eagle is Mom and which eagle is DM2.

Curricular Connections

3-LS3 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Instructional Materials

- Photos of Mom
- Photos of DM2
- Chromebook/technology or printed photos
- Paper to take notes

Resources

- Photos of Mom and DM2 (included with lesson plan)
- Labeled bald eagle photo (included with lesson plan)
- Raptor Resource Project webpage - <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/decorah-eagles/>

Background Knowledge

For the teacher: Read the information about Mom and DM2 under the tab “About the Decorah Eagles” on this page: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/decorah-eagles/>
Other than the size difference, these traits are not necessarily observed in all female/male bald eagles.

Opener

Project photo #1 and discussed the labeled parts

Procedure/Method/Activity

1. Today we are going to look for specific characteristics so we can tell Mom and DM2 apart. If the principal or another visitor were to come into our classroom and wonder how we know it is Mom or DM2, what specific characteristics can we show them to prove it?
2. Use two close-up head shots of Mom and two close-up head shots of DM2 to look for traits you can use to tell them apart. Put photos into Google classroom or provide printed photos. Students can open the document in Google classroom and enlarge the photos to zoom in and look at specific parts very closely.
3. Students will work in small groups of 3 or 4. Make a Venn diagram. Discuss and list characteristics observed on each eagle. Students may use a labeled photo of a bald eagle head, projected onto the board, as a reference when looking for and naming specific characteristics.
4. The whole class will come together to share observations. Small group lists will be used to make one large class chart to show the identifying characteristics used to tell Mom and DM2 apart.
5. Look at some photos of both eagles in the nest. Identify which one is Mom and which one is DM2. Use details of traits to back-up your claim.

Assessment

- Use printed photos or project photos of Mom and DM2 together on the nest or a branch. Identify who is who, justifying the identification using the evidence of observable traits.
- Compare the class results with the results under the “About the Decorah Eagles” tab located below the video feed on this page:
<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/decorah-eagles/>

Extension

- Make a poster using photos. Label the observable traits.
- Explain verbally, who is who on the nest to a visitor in the classroom.

Image List

Images can be downloaded individually from the lesson plan page. All images are included with the downloadable lesson plan package.

- LabeledBaldEagleHead: A labeled Bald Eagle head
- DM2-1: A photo of DM2
- DM2-2: A photo of DM2
- DM2-3: A photo of DM2
- Mom-1: A photo of Mom
- Mom-2: A photo of Mom
- Mom-3: A photo of Mom
- MomAndDM2-1: Mom (left) and DM2 (right)
- MomAndDM2-2: Mom (left) and DM2 (right)
- DM2AndMom-3: DM2 (left) and Mom (right)

You can select from many more photos in our forum at

<https://www.raptorresource.org/forum/index.php?board=56.0> or at Explore.org's Decorah Eagles snapshot page: <https://explore.org/snapshots/decorah-eagles/>