

GAMES USING THE EARLY BIRD FLASHCARDS

“What’s That Bird?” is a set of 40 flashcards on common birds that may be found anywhere in India. This has been developed as part of the Early Bird project, which aims to get children interested in and excited about birds and nature.



Designed as an educational game, the cards feature photographs on one side and information on the other, with icons for habitat and food, and a quiz section as well. The cards are laminated and sturdy, ideal for use by a group of children in a classroom setting. The focus is not so much on learning the names of the birds, but on getting to know interesting facts about them, learning about their food and habitat and behaviour.



The flashcards set contains an instructions card which explains two games that can be played with the set. In this document we’ve listed out additional games, and categorized them by age group and level of difficulty. If you can think of more games that can be played with the set, we would love to

hear from you! Contact us at earlybird@ncf-india.org

If you’d like to purchase a set, visit us at www.early-bird.in or drop in at the [NCF](#) office in Sahakarnagar, Bangalore.

MEMORY GAME

- Age group: 5 years +
- Level of difficulty: Easy
- Reading skills: Not required
- Knowledge of birds: Not required
- Individual or team game
- Additional resources: None



Instructions:

- All the cards are spread out on a table or on the floor, photo side up.
- Team 1 picks any two cards, one at a time, turning them over and placing them on the table to show the back of the cards to both teams.
- If the habitat OR food icons match, as below, team 1 gets to keep those cards.

Black-rumped Flameback <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	x			x		Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x			x
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- If they don't match, they replace the cards as they were and the turn passes to Team 2.

Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x			x		House Crow <i>Corvus splendens</i>	x			x
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- Team 2 can now pick two cards, one at a time, trying to select cards in which the habitat or food will match.
- The game continues till all the cards are removed from the table, or no further matches are possible.
- The team which can collect the most cards wins.



This game can be played with the full set of 40 flashcards or in case of a time constraint, with a smaller set of an even number of cards selected at random from the full set.

FUN FACTS GAME

Age group: 8 years +

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Reading skills: Required

Knowledge of birds: Required

Team game

Additional resources: Dice

Green Bee-eater
Merops orientalis 17 cm

BEHAVIOUR
A dainty green bird, with long and pointed central tail feathers, it is seen in small groups perching on bare branches or overhead wires, from where it makes graceful loops and dives to catch insects. Call is a jingling *tit-tit* or trilling *tree-tree-tree*, uttered constantly in flight and while perched.

WHERE IT IS FOUND
In open areas, cultivation and grassland throughout the Indian subcontinent.

FUN FACTS TRUE ✓ FALSE ✗

- 1 My nest is a tunnel dug in sloping sandy ground ✓
- 2 I like to bathe in ▶ water ✗, dust ✓, milk ✗
- 3 I'm found on two continents, Asia and ▶ Australia ✗, Africa ✓, Europe ✗

Often seen in flocks

SIMILAR SPECIES
Blue-tailed Bee-eater – orange throat and blue tail

Instructions:

- The players sit in a circle. The flashcards are shuffled and placed in a stack in the center, photo side up.
- Player 1 holds up the top card, showing the player on the right (Player 2) the photo of the bird.
- Player 2 rolls the dice and Player 1 takes the action below based on the number on the dice.
 - 1 Read fun fact #1 to Player 2 and ask Player 2 to guess True/False
 - 2 Read fun fact #2 to Player 2 and ask Player 2 to guess True/False
 - 3 Read fun fact #3 to Player 2 and ask Player 2 to guess True/False
 - 4 Player 2 must give the correct common name of the bird
 - 5 Player 2 must guess the food of the bird
 - 6 Player 2 must guess the habitat of the bird
- Player 2 gets 1 point for the correct answer and the card is replaced at the bottom of the pile.
- The game continues with Player 2 picking the next card and so on till all the cards and questions are done. The player with the most points wins the game.



This game can also be played as part of a bird quiz based on the flashcards. It can be played with younger children who cannot read, with a quiz-master calling out questions.

DUMB CHARADES

Age group: 12 years +

Level of difficulty: Difficult

Reading skills: Required

Knowledge of birds: Required

Team game

Additional resources: None



Instructions:

- Team 1 selects one of its members to be the “actor”.
- The flashcards are shuffled and placed on a table.
- Team 2 picks any card at random from the center of the stack, taking care not to show the other team which card it is (front or back). This card is given to the actor who must stand away from the other Team 1 members.
- Facing Team 1, the actor has to pretend to be the bird listed on the card, through actions which can reveal features of the bird like its habitat, food, behaviour, physical characteristics and so on.
- The actor is allowed to make any kinds of actions (eg. swimming, sipping nectar with a long beak, knocking on wood, etc), but speaking is not allowed.
- The objective for Team 1 is to guess the name of the bird by shouting out their responses.
- Team 2 keeps track of time, allowing 3 minutes for guessing. If Team 1 members are able to guess correctly, they get 2 points. If they cannot guess within the stipulated time, they get zero.
- The turn then passes to Team 2 to act and guess with a random card selected by Team 1.
- The team with the most points wins the game.

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