

AVIAN ADVENTURES IN SECOND GRADE

A UNIT STUDY OF PARROTS

CREATED BY TIFFANY
LANG

SECOND GRADE
TEACHER IN NMUSD



OUR CLASSROOM PETS ARE TWO GREEN CHEEK CONURES
NAMED:

ALOHA



TIKI



THEY ARE EXCITED TO LEARN EVERY DAY WITH 24 SECOND GRADERS AND ONE TOTALLY SANE BIRD LADY

When they are not learning, they enjoy taking baths in any container that slightly resembles a tub, destroying wooden toys, and sitting on the window sill looking at the kids on the grass at recess. They love to act as soccer referees and squawk at the kids.



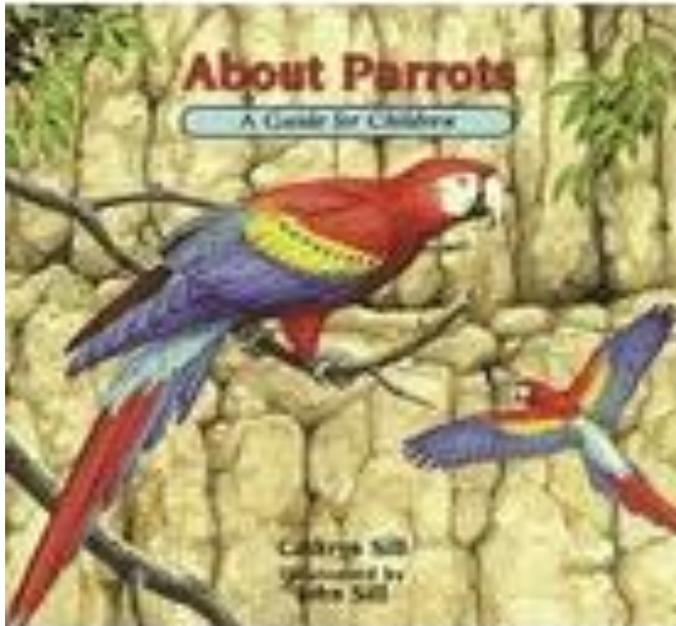
SETTING THE STAGE FOR CLASSROOM PETS

Before introducing Aloha and Tiki to the students, I first show them pictures and go over some important rules that students must observe in order for the parrots to remain in our room.

My Rules

- **Keep voices quiet**
- **Never pick up Aloha or Tiki without permission**
- **Be alert in the classroom – the birds like to “explore” the room**
- **Keep the door closed**
- **Always do a “bird check” before entering the room to make sure they are not underfoot.**

ACTIVITY 1: INTRODUCTION TO PARROTS



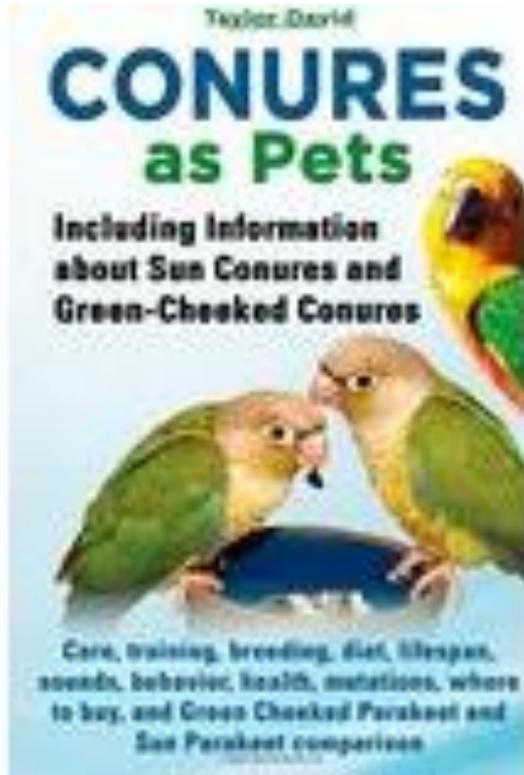
Materials

- **About Parrots for Children book by Cathryn and John Sill**
- **KWL chart for each student**
- **Pencils**
- **iPads (optional)**

LESSON OVERVIEW

- Before reading, have students begin filling out a KWL chart about parrots with what they know about parrots already
- Read the book and have students fill out what they want to know about parrots.
- Have students pick a question to research (using books or the internet) and prepare an answer.
- Students will take turns presenting their question and answer to the class.
- **OPTIONAL:** Students with iPad access can prepare an Adobe Voice presentation of their research.

ACTIVITY 2: LEARNING ABOUT ALOHA AND TIKI



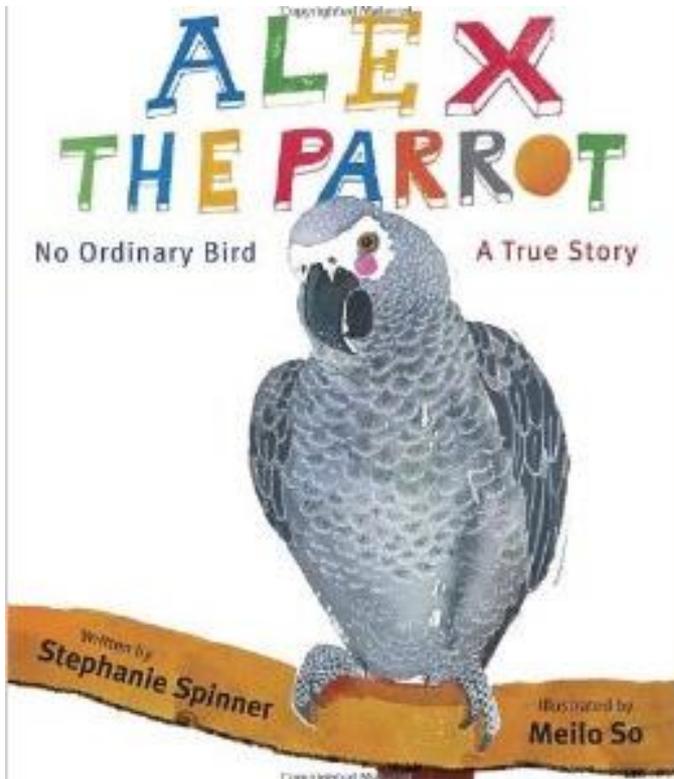
Materials

- **Conures as Pets book by Taylor David**
- **Chart paper or graphic organizers**
- **Drawing paper**
- **Colored pencils, crayons, or markers**
- **Hand lenses**
- **pencils**

LESSON OVERVIEW

- **Read the specific chapters relevant to Green Cheek Conures**
- **Make a list of relevant information on chart paper. Students can copy onto graphic organizers**
- **Take turns using hand lenses to closely observe our conures, Aloha and Tiki, paying attention to body parts and colors.**
- **Draw a detailed sketch of Aloha and/or Tiki and label body parts**

ACTIVITY 3: TRAINING OUR PARROTS



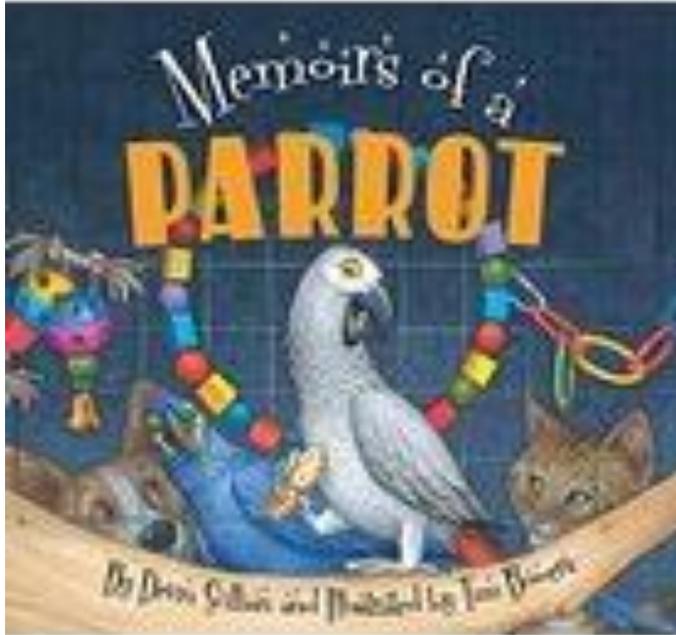
Materials

- **Alex the Parrot: No Ordinary Bird book by Stephanie Spinner and Meilo So**
- **Chart paper**
- **Pens or markers**

LESSON OVERVIEW

- **Read the story**
 - **Discuss the special things that Alex could do and say**
 - **Tell students what things Aloha and Tiki have already learned to do. (Aloha can whistle, imitate a cough, say “up” and “Aloha.” Both Aloha and Tiki can poop on command)**
 - **Brainstorm a list of things students would like to train Aloha and Tiki to do**
 - **Decide upon 2 new behaviors or words to teach Aloha and Tiki and make a list of these behaviors/words on chart paper**
 - **Brainstorm how the birds will learn these new behaviors and words and how the students will help with the leaning process.**
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ACTIVITY 4: MAKING A GIFT FOR ALOHA AND TIKI



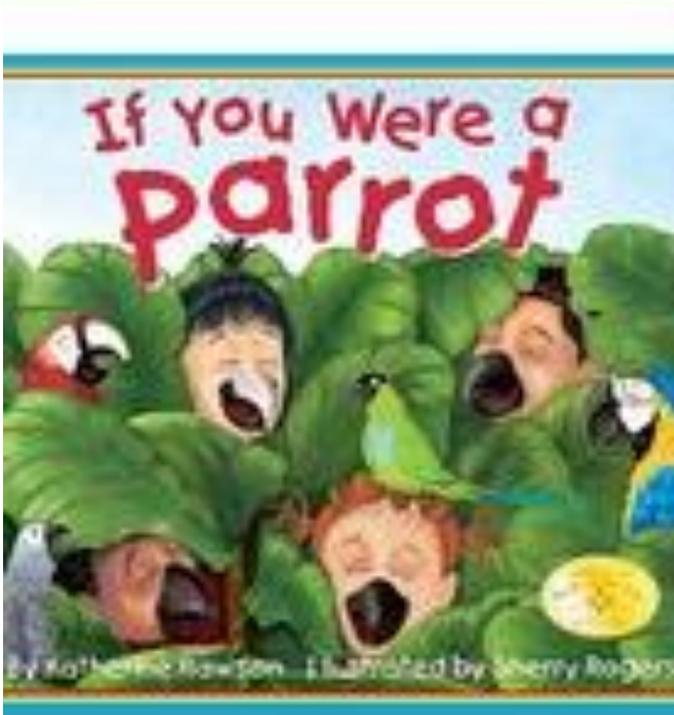
Materials

- **Memoirs of a Parrot book by Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers**
- **found and recycled materials such as wood, string, rope, plastic**
- **Fruits and veggies (no avocado)**

LESSON OVERVIEW

- **Read the book and discuss the point-of-view the author chose to write in**
- **Discuss why the parrot was so bored with his life in the pet store**
- **Present the students with a list of supplies they can use to make a toy or food treat for Aloha and Tiki to keep them occupied.**
- **Have students create their toy or treat at home**
- **Students will present their gift to the parrots in class and take turns showing the class what they made and what materials/foods they used and why those particular materials were chosen.**

ACTIVITY 5: PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR CLAWS



Materials

- **If you Were a Parrot book by Katherine Rawson and Sherry Rogers**
- **Writing paper**
- **Pencils**

LESSON OVERVIEW

- **Review different points-of-view that authors use when writing**
 - **Read the book**
 - **Discuss writing our own version of the book, If I were Aloha or If I Were Tiki**
 - **Brainstorm a list of the things the kids would do as parrots**
 - **Have each child write and illustrate (optional) a page to turn into a class book.**
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Play the Parrot Olympics. Have students compete in games using only their beaks (mouths) and claws (feet). Possible games: picking up objects with feet only, transporting objects only using their mouth (make sure objects are edible and not a choking hazard. Check for food allergies)**
- **Directed Draw of a parrot**
- **Write an acrostic poem about Aloha or Tiki**
- **Design a new cage/habitat for Aloha and Tiki**