

Birdie On My Finger



Objective

The student will identify bird body parts and adaptations (feathers, wings, bill, tail) while creating paper finger puppets.

Materials

For each student:

- tagboard
- one of each parrot shape cut from tag board
- one penny
- scotch tape
- assorted crayons or color markers
- assorted feathers

Background

Birds are the only animals with feathers. Strong yet flexible feathers, along with other body adaptations like streamlined wings, large chest muscles, and lightweight bones, give birds the great survival advantage of flight. Other animals can fly, such as bats, but birds have adapted to a wide range of habitats and environments.

Action

CRAFT 1: Penny Parrot

1. Begin activity by asking students what they know about birds. If students can read, write responses on board. Make a point to explain that birds have feathers, a characteristic unique to birds.
2. Begin craft by distributing first parrot shape to each student. Ask students to write their names on one side.
3. Distribute crayons or color markers. Ask students to draw or color an eye, to color the bill, to color the wing, and then the rest of the body. Students may choose any color they wish.
4. After coloring, tape a penny to the back (name side) at the end of the tail. This gives weight to the craft and allows the parrot to perch on the child's finger.

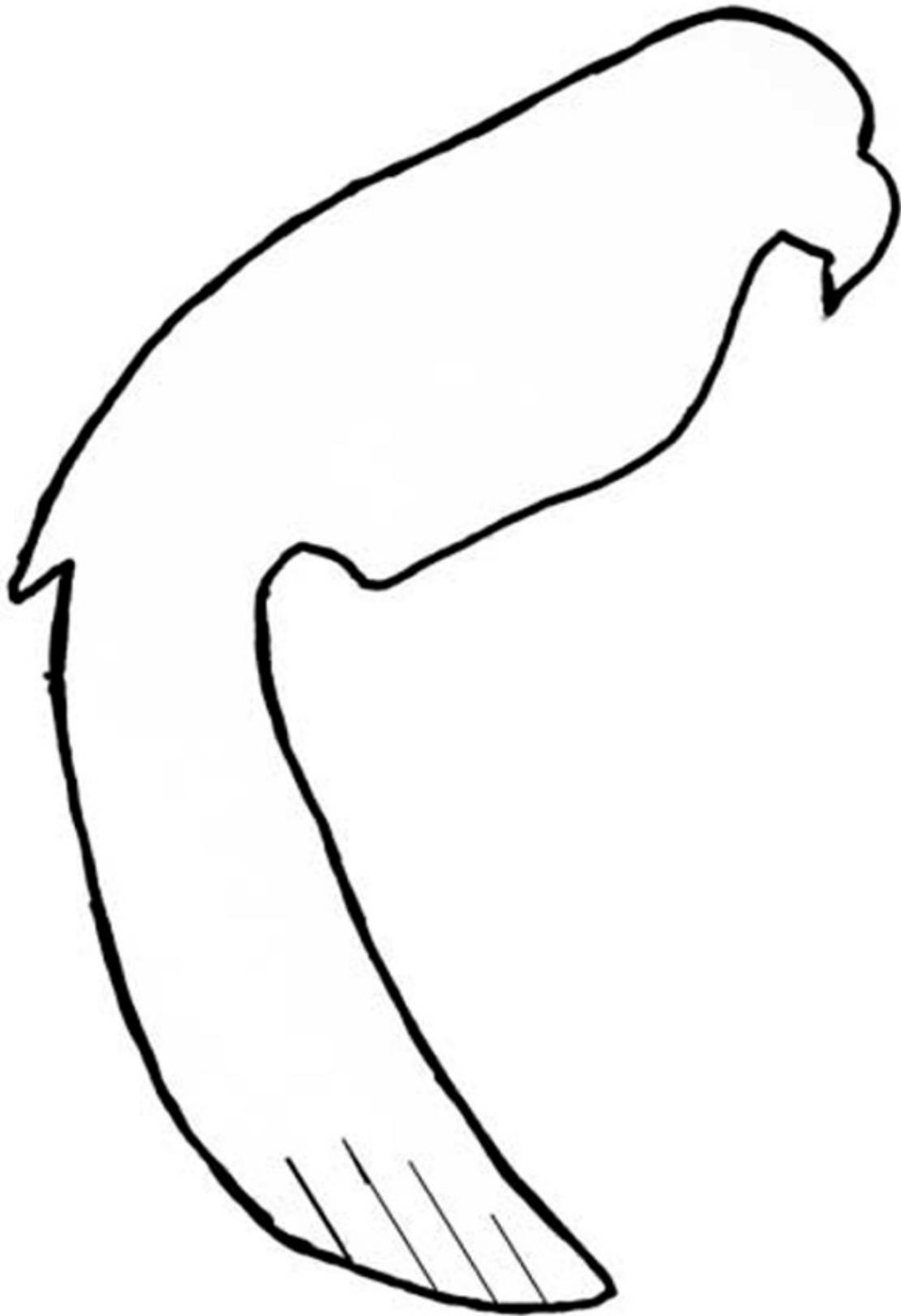
CRAFT 2: Finger Flyer

1. Distribute second parrot shape and ask students to write their names on the back.
2. Review body parts again while students color front. This shape clearly shows feathers on wings.
3. Distribute or show sample feathers for students to touch.
4. When finished coloring, show the students how to slide the puppet onto their fingers.
5. In an open area of the classroom, have students "fly" with their birds. Mimic behaviors such as swooping, diving, hovering, gliding, and landing.
6. If possible, have students take home a feather along with their puppets.

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penny parrot craft 1



Birdie On My Finger



finger flyer craft 2

