

Parrots Over Puerto Rico

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Endangered Animals, Deforestation, Environment, Puerto Rico

Book Brief: Long ago, Puerto Rican parrots raised their young, hunted for food, and made nesting holes in the tall trees. As time passed and more people lived on the island, the parrots died out. This book

shows how people are now trying to help the parrots thrive again.

Author: Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore

Illustrator: Susan L. Roth



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make predictions: Look through the pictures. Do you think this book will be *fiction* or *nonfiction*? Explain.

While reading, build background: How does the

information in the book help build your knowledge about Puerto Rico? What are you learning about its

history, environment, people, and the animals that live there?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ How did the first group of people, the Tainos, treat the parrots?
- ◆ What types of *adaptations*, or changes, did the parrots make?
- ◆ Why do scientists leave one egg in the wild?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

PARROT PARFAIT

Ingredients: yogurt, fruit, sunflower seeds

Puerto Rican parrots eat mainly fruits and seeds. Create a parrot parfait by layering any type of yogurt with chunks of fruit (pineapple, bananas, strawberries, etc.) and sunflower seeds. Repeat the layers at least twice (yogurt, fruit, sunflower seeds, yogurt, fruit, sunflower seeds). If your child is young, talk about *patterns* while you layer. Enjoy!

PAPER PARROT PROJECT

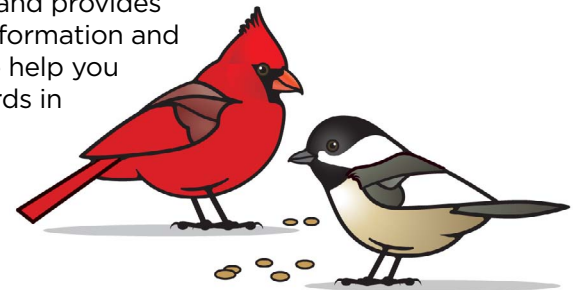
Materials: paper, glue

The illustrator used paper to create the beautiful images in this book. Collect scrap paper pieces to recycle into art. Look through the book for ideas on pictures you might like to make with the paper. Notice the different textures. Can you make a parrot and landscape with your paper scraps? Be creative!

BACKYARD BIRDS

Materials: pretzels, peanut butter, bird seed, string
Be a friend to the birds in your backyard! Build a simple bird feeder by spreading peanut butter on pretzels, then dipping them in bird seed. Use string to hang the pretzels from a tree for birds to enjoy!

Want to know what kinds of birds are visiting your backyard? They probably aren't parrots! You can download the **Merlin Bird ID** app for free on a phone or tablet. This app takes you through a series of questions and provides detailed information and pictures to help you identify birds in your area.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT VULNERABLE ANIMALS

Jimmy the Joey, Susan Kelly and Deborah Lee Rose (2013)

Jasper's Story, Jill Robinson and Marc Bekoff (2013)

Puffling Patrol, Ted and Betsy Lewin (2012)



Reading Is Fundamental