## **Adaptation Artistry**

**Objectives**: Students will identify and describe bird adaptations and evaluate their importance.

This is an activity adapted from *Project Wild*.

**Procedure**: Students each design and create imaginary birds, and then write reports including

descriptions of the birds' adaptations. First discuss with the students the various adaptations: beaks, claws, webbed feet, talons, pouches, wing shapes, legs, and coloration. Then list the different types of adaptations on the chalkboard. Describe the advantage of the adaptation represented by each characteristic. Have the students design their own original bird, one that will be adapted to a Wind Cave National Park habitat. Each student should decide where the bird will live (prairie, forest, cave), what it will eat, and how it will move. They could draw the bird, sculpt it, or make paper birds that you could use in a mobile to decorate your classroom. After the students have created their bird, have each student present

part of the bird works.

You might have the birds adapt to an environmental catastrophe which the students might remember, for example: a fire in the park, a flood, a drought, or oil spill? How might they adapt to a major natural environmental event such as a hurricane, tornado, global warming, or volcano explosion?

their report and creature, with its adaptations, to the class and discuss how each

