

THE LOST WORDS: KINGFISHER KENNINGS

English and Literacy
 Key stage 2



OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITY

To describe plants or animals in your outside location using kennings and the Lost Words 'Kingfisher' spell as inspiration.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- » Lost Words book, extra copies of the Kingfisher poem, clipboards, pencils.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- » To write a kenning describing one of the plants or animals in your outside area.

SET UP

Choose a location where there is space to sit in a circle with your class within easy reach of somewhere that they can explore the flowers, trees, insects etc nearby.

Prepare a few kennings prior to the lesson to demonstrate what they are and how to write one.

PLENARY

Did you enjoy writing the kennings to describe your plants and animals?

What did you find challenging about this task? How did you overcome these challenges?

MAIN ACTIVITY

Ask your class to close their eyes as they listen to you read the Kingfisher spell from the Lost Words book. You may wish to re-read the poem several times to give pupils the opportunity to absorb the words and the feelings the poem evokes.

What did you learn about the kingfisher from this poem and what language was used that helped you understand more about the kingfisher? With a partner, pick out any words you are not familiar with, come up with ideas about what they might mean. Share with the class.

Explain to the class that a kenning is a way of describing something using clues instead of saying what it is. It is two words long and can be used to describe an object, person, emotion or animal in the form of a little riddle. Ask pupils to look again at the Kingfisher spell and pick out the kennings that have been used.

Explain how to write a kenning:

Use a noun, and then link it to a verb and add 'er' on the end (making an 'er' noun.) E.g. 'colour giver'. Play a game with the class where you read out some kennings and they must guess what you are describing.

Ask pupils to explore the outside area and look for animals or plants that they could describe using kennings. Look up to the sky, down under rocks, pots or logs and everywhere in-between. Encourage pupils to look carefully at any plants or birds from the Lost Words book that might be present and challenge them to make up kennings about them.

Once the kennings have been written, ask for pupils to take turns reading them aloud and see whether the class can guess what they are describing.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Challenge pupils to come up with as many kennings as possible for the plant or animal they have chosen.

Ask pupils to write a poem about one of the other words that has been taken out of the Oxford Junior Dictionary and ask them to include kennings within it.