

Wild Life Drawing

It was on the 27th May, way back in 1826 that a man called John James Audbon was on board a ship to England. John was an American naturalist. That means, he studied nature. As he travelled he kept a journal in which he recorded all the interesting things he saw. John saw the dolphins that were following his ship. He wrote a little bit about them saying that they 'move in companies from four or five to twenty. They chase the flying fish and leap from the sea in leaps of fifteen or twenty feet to swallow the little fishes.'

John was a very clever artist. He was on his way to England to sell his pictures. He wanted to publish his work in a book about American birds. In those days, they could not print in colour so his beautiful pictures had to be printed in black and white and then coloured in, just like you would colour in a picture. This made his books very expensive, but even so, lots of people wanted to buy them. They did not have cameras in those days so artists liked to draw things just as they really were, as carefully as they could and John liked to draw the birds in their natural surroundings. He was a very gifted artist.



If you would like to try and draw some birds, there are some simple instructions in the optional resources file for today, that show you how to draw a duck, a swan, a penguin and a parrot by drawing around your own hand.

You might like to start a nature journal. You need a simple notebook (or you can make one from a few pieces of paper, folded in half and stapled.) Write the a date, the weather and where you saw your find. Then describe it and maybe even draw a picture of it. You might see an insect, a flower, a bird, or any other wildlife in your garden or while walking around and about.