

The Birds in Your Name

A Beginning Project for All Learners

Purpose

To explore the sounds that make up our names and understand how those sounds shape our identity, memory, and voice.

Project Overview

Each student will listen to, explore, and represent the phonemes in their name using sound cards, colors, symbols, and stories. The result will be a personalized artifact that can serve as the first entry in a spelling journal, oracle deck, or class sound wall.

Steps

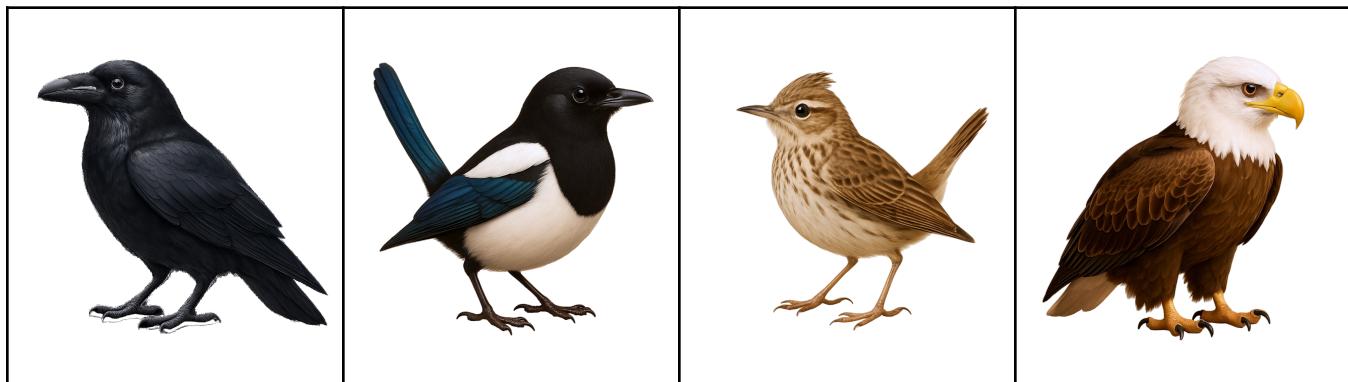
1. Say & Stretch

- 1. Say your name slowly. Break it into separate sounds (phonemes).
- 2. Find the birds in The Alphabet System™ that match those sounds.
- 3. Draw each bird and write the sound it represents.
- 4. Practice saying your name while pointing to each bird.

Example:

Name: Rylie **Sounds:** /r/ / ɪ/ /l/ / ē/

Birds: Raven, Magpie, Lark, Eagle



2. Find Your Sounds

- Locate cards or symbols from The Alphabet System that match each phoneme.
- Optional: Use a phoneme chart to assist.

3. Color & Connect

- Assign a color or image to each sound in your name.
- Use paint, pencil, collage, or digital tools.

4. Create a Sound Signature

- - Choose one format:
 - Mini Name Deck (a card per sound)
 - Sound Flag or Banner
 - Spoken Word or Audio Reflection
 - Illustrated Sound Poem

5. Reflect

- - Write or record: “What do I hear in my name?”
- - Optional journal prompt: “If my name were a spell, what would it do?”

Extension Ideas

- Compare your name's sounds with a classmate's
- Interview a family member about where your name came from
- Track how your name changes in other languages or accents