

**Lesson: Impacts of Plastic on Ecosystems**  
**Worksheet - Activity 3: Entangled Flight**

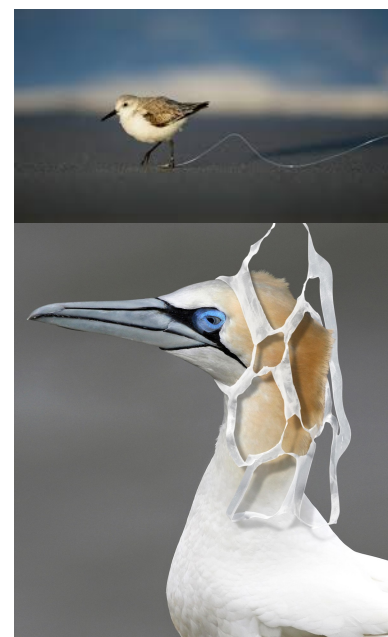
Your group will fly a paper plane “bird” and write a *hypothesis* about how entangled plastic could impact a bird’s ability to fly.

Remember, a hypothesis is a possible answer to a question or explanation of a phenomenon. It accounts for all of the observed facts and is testable.

**Instructions**

1. Create your paper plane “bird” and decorate it however you like! Then collect your materials to record your experiment (measuring tape, pen or pencil). The table below outlines the main roles you will be responsible for when testing your hypothesis.

<b>Roles</b>
<b>Flight tester</b> Takes bird to fly zone to throw and test flight path
<b>Measurer</b> Uses measuring tape to measure distance bird flies
<b>Recorder</b> Writes down observations



*Some examples of birds in the wild entangled in plastic. Plastic 6-pack rings, string, and bags.*

2. **Fly your bird and make initial observations:** Fly your bird normally (without plastic) then measure the distance. Write down additional observations about how it flies with no plastic (eg. Does it fly in a straight line? Loops? Flies far? Why?)

Distance bird flew (cm): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Observations:

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3. **Entangle paper plane “bird” with plastic material:** Pick the plastic material(s) you will use to entangle your bird. In the wild, plastic is something birds can get entangled in. Use additional materials to secure and attach plastic if you need to.

List plastic materials chosen:

4. **Write your hypothesis:** We're almost ready to re-fly your paper plane "bird", but now it will be entangled with the plastic materials you used. First, write a hypothesis you can test with the plastic materials you listed above.

**Check your hypothesis with the instructor to make sure it is testable before moving on to step 5.**

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5. **Test Your Hypothesis:** Fly your paper plane "bird" again to test your findings. Record your results below, including the distance you measured.

**Bird without plastic**

Distance bird flew (cm): \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

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**Bird with plastic**

Distance bird flew (cm): \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

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6. **Check hypothesis and write your conclusions:** Did the plastic impact how the bird flew? Was your hypothesis correct? If not, try and think about why that is. Describe what you observed, thinking back to any changes in distance or the pattern the bird flew.

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**Final reflection:** Let's wrap up and reflect back on what we learned!

- **What are some types of objects birds or other wildlife become entangled in and where might these objects come from?**

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- **What other examples of wildlife can get entangled in plastic?**

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- **How could birds or other wildlife be impacted by entanglement?**

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- **What are some things you can do to prevent these types of items from entangling wildlife?**

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