

Multicultural Ospreys

Ideas for use in RE, History, Citizenship and Multicultural Studies

Introduction;

The osprey is a truly multicultural bird. European birds spend six months of the year in northern Europe, taking advantage of good fishing and long day length in which to fish, and six months in Africa taking advantage of the warmth. This means that twice each year they undertake a migration of 3000 miles, passing over land and water with many natural barriers like deserts and mountains and of course over many man made structures. While the natural barriers like mountains may prove a challenge to ospreys, the artificial boundaries of man including countries, political & religious or ethnic regions are less obvious to the passing osprey.

The diet of all ospreys is exclusively fish. Humans also eat a lot of fish, so it follows that humans and ospreys have always been in fairly close contact. With their magnificent eyesight ospreys must experience a huge diversity of human ways of living and for the most part this association is harmonious for both the ospreys and for humans.

Using the general introduction above, there are several possible lessons, which fall into the categories of history, citizenship, RE, and multicultural studies. Different schools will teach these subjects under different headings, so it is advisable for teachers to scan through all of them and pick and choose what is relevant to their class.

Peoples along the Osprey Migration Route

Twice a year ospreys undertake a migration of approximately 3000 miles, in doing so they pass over many countries, which contain peoples of hugely differing appearances, clothes, politics, religions, beliefs and customs. The osprey may experience all this on its travels; it is a truly multicultural bird.



Multicultural Ospreys - cont.

Lesson Tasks

1. Research which countries the migrating ospreys fly over, by looking at the flyway routes on the maps on the Rutland Osprey Project website, www.ospreys.org.uk
2. Use the internet to research images from those countries and information about them. Find out;
 - i. What do the people look like and what do they wear?
 - ii. What do their houses or settlements look like?
 - iii. What are their traditional meals/foods?
 - iv. What do their schools look like? What sort of facilities have they got, how do they compare with your school?
 - v. What is the main religion(s) of the people? What do their places of worship look like?
3. Discuss why the differences you have found out about actually have arisen, are they necessary or even are they important.
4. On the computer use a map of the osprey flyway as a background and load some of the best pictures you have found onto the appropriate place on the map. Make this into a poster, by giving it an appropriate slogan based upon your discussions from task 3. Something like 'we are all different, but the osprey does not care'

A typical inland village in The Gambia.

