

**TEKS-Based Activity for Grade 5**

## **The Brown Pelican Experts**

### **Description:**

In this activity, students research the brown pelican.

### **Time Frame:**

Two 45-minute lessons

### **Correlation to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:**

During this activity, students will be exposed to the following Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:

**Note:** Some TEKS statements below end with a ; or *and* and nothing thereafter—this indicates that further TEKS statements follow but are not included here.

**(5.9) Science concepts.** The student knows that adaptations may increase the survival of members of a species. The student is expected to:

- (A) compare the adaptive characteristics of species that improve their ability to survive and reproduce in an ecosystem;
- (B) analyze and describe adaptive characteristics that result in an organism's unique niche in an ecosystem; and
- (C) predict some adaptive characteristics required for survival and reproduction by an organism in an ecosystem. (C) analyze and interpret information to construct reasonable explanations from direct and indirect evidence;

**Note:** The TEKS listed here are the main content TEKS for this activity; however, this activity may also cover additional content and process skills included in other TEKS.

### **Materials:**

Reference books on the brown pelican, including *Endangered and Threatened Animals of Texas*  
Computers with internet access  
Chart paper (1 sheet per student group)  
Markers (several colors per student group)  
Heavy stock paper for topic squares  
Container to hold topic squares  
Facts About Brown Pelicans student investigation page (included at the end of this activity)

### **Resources:**

Campbell, Linda. *Endangered and Threatened Animals of Texas: Their Life History and Management*. Austin, TX: Texas Parks and Wildlife, 1995.

“Eastern Brown Pelican.” *Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*.

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd\\_bk\\_w7000\\_0013\\_eastern\\_brown\\_pelican.pdf](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0013_eastern_brown_pelican.pdf) (Date retrieved: October 18, 2006.) Copyright 2006, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

### **Advance Preparation:**

1. Prepare a topic square with each of the following labels and place together in the container.
  - Describe the brown pelican’s habitat and how it is changing due to pollution, land development, and hunting.
  - Describe the anatomy and appearance of the brown pelican.
  - Describe the movements of the brown pelicans, including the way they fly, steer, and dive.
  - Describe how brown pelicans behave toward each other and toward humans.
  - Describe the growth of brown pelicans from fledgling to adult. Be sure to include the special needs of young birds.
2. Prepare copies of the Facts About Brown Pelicans student investigation page for each student group.

### **Procedures:**

1. Have one student from each group draw a topic square out of the container. Each group should research its topic using text and internet resources, and prepare a presentation of their information using chart paper. Encourage students to use both words and pictures in their presentation.
2. Each student group presents their findings to the class. The other student groups record notes on the Facts About Brown Pelicans student investigation page. If necessary, the teacher may give a short summary of facts about brown pelicans to provide any missing information.



