

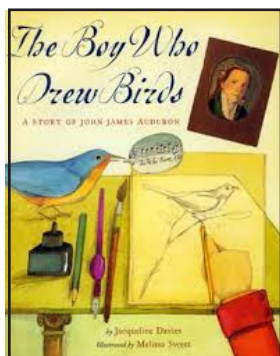


# CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

H. Diana Cruchley©2014 dianacruchley.com

## THE BOY WHO DREW BIRDS



James Audubon was French, and was sent to America to learn business, and also to avoid French military service in Napoleon's army. While there, he became passionate about the observation and detailed paintings of birds. This is his story with particular emphasis on his "test" of migration.

Jacqueline Davies, Houghton Mifflin, ©2004,  
ISBN 0-618-24343-7

## PERSONAL WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should provide at least three topics if possible. Here are some ideas:

1. Audubon was an artist. What are your experiences, good and bad, with art projects at home or school.
2. Audubon collected things - talk about anything you have gathered, but especially from nature.
3. Audubon was away from home in France for most of this life. Write about being away from home, for however long - such as at camp.

## READER'S THEATRE

Jacqueline Davis website has a Reader's Theatre for this book - for 8 actors.

There is also an illustrated step-by-step for building a bird's nest that imitates the process birds actually use, using glue rather than spit and wet mud for the cement.

She has a comprehensive set of teacher ideas as well.

## AUDUBON ART

First, students need to watch a Youtube on drawing birds. The one I liked best, is a little "cartoon-like" but it is fast, and clear and could be adapted to more "realistic drawings. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOizGtcG0zw>)

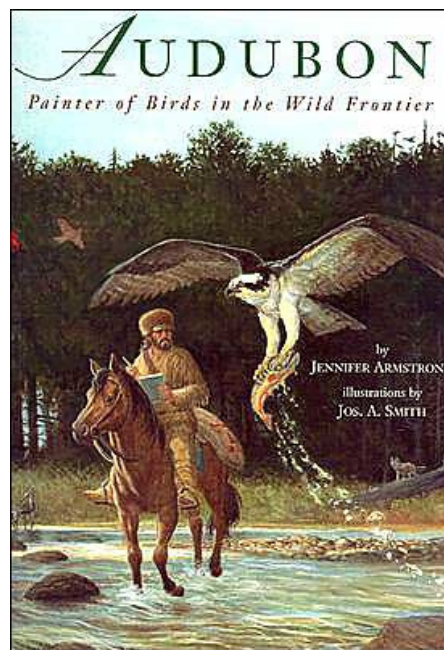
Next, provide a set of Audubon style drawings for students to "observe". Ask them to draw just one of the birds. They should sketch in pencil, and then go over it when adding details, using ink. Finally they would erase the original pencil, and finish with coloured crayons or felts.

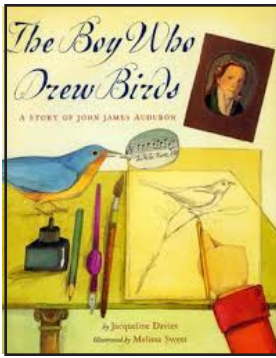
Tell them not to worry because when the original inspiration is taken away, their drawing will look really good. (A lot of students think that "real drawing" needs to be done from your head. No. All great artists had models, observed from nature; or now they start with a photo.)

If students draw on a piece of paper around 3 X 5 inches, it can be turned into a very nice card for Mother or Father's Day.

## AUDUBON, PAINTER OF BIRDS IN THE WILD FRONTIER

This second picture book, by Jennifer Armstrong, might be interesting to have to create a chart of the differences in how the books handled Audubon and how they are similar.





## THE BOY WHO DREW BIRDS, CONT.

### IMITATING THE ART OF MELISSA SWEET

The illustrator of the book, Melissa Sweet, uses interesting styles for her art. She combines photographs of real objects, pencil sketches, and coloured sketches to make lovely layouts. In one of their short stories, students can be inspired to find images on the Internet, or take their own pictures of real objects, then print them to illustrate their piece.

### FAMOUS NATURALISTS - RAPID RESEARCH

Naturalists study nature the way it is rather than the way theories say it is. As a result, going back to Aristotle, there has been steady progress in science because of the work of naturalists. The attached pages describe 17 naturalists and their contributions to the study of the real world. This can be a great Rapid Research project to build general knowledge about history (useful as well in building vocabulary), speaking and writing skills, and, of course, research skills.

Working in pairs, students must find 20 facts about their naturalists and present a list of 20 complete sentences describing what they have found. There are then several options;

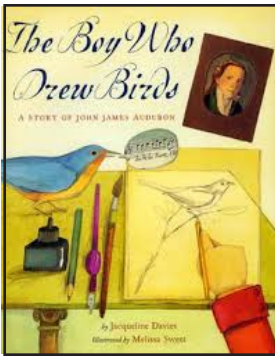
- Students each write their own essay describing what they have found out, which is marked, then mounted on cardstock and illustrated from the Internet for a very effective classroom display of student work.
- Finished essays can be submitted with a literal question and an answer from the book. Once the finished essay is mounted, the question is added and the answer form part of a key on your desk. The cardstock items are numbered in 72 point numbers, and then students circulate to find 5 answers from the pages. They may go in pairs, but only one pair may be at a station at a time in this Scavenger Hunt.
- The illustrations for the naturalists can be quickly placed by you into a Keynote or PowerPoint presentation and students, again in pairs, have each 1 minute (2 minutes in total) to present their information. This is the one most likely to increase general knowledge in students.

### THE SIZE OF AN ORIGINAL AUDUBON BOOK

Audubon's book is amazing - partly because he insisted that the birds be portrayed full sized. That meant that the finished book was 39 X 26 inches or 99 cm X 66 cm.

The *Wikipedia* article describes how he struggled to find a printer, and ended up printing it by subscription in England. (It's like *Kickstarter* now, on the Internet, where people pre-pay for something that has yet to be done, based on the description of what it will be. That would be \$2,000,000 today.)



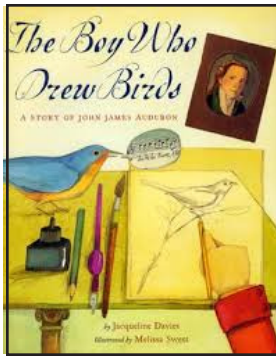


# FAMOUS NATURALISTS

## THE BOY WHO DREW BIRDS, CONT.

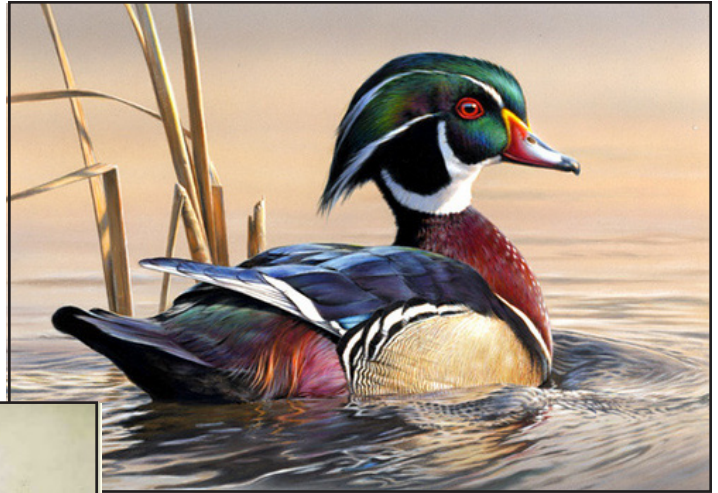
1. Aristotle - up to 25% of his writing was on animal behaviour, meteorology, and the cardiovascular system.
2. Theophrastes - student of Aristotle who studied Botany and also proved, by experiment, that the Mediterranean sea was fed by the Atlantic.
3. Pliny the elder - believed in living in harmony with nature. A military man who wrote 37 volumes called **Naturalis Historia** (or *Natural History*)
4. Pedanos Dioscorides - a doctor in Pliny's army who identified 1000 natural drugs to treat patients in his book **Materia Medica**.
5. Ferdinand Lucas Bauer - detailed drawings of plants, many from the Mediterranean, published in **Flora Graeca**.
6. Andrea Cesalpino - first to classify plants according to their fruits and seeds rather than alphabetically or by medical use.
7. Maria Sibylla Merian - documented metamorphosis for the first time. Incorporated detailed insect drawings into art.
8. Carl Linnaeus - father of Taxonomy. Was the person who provided an organizational framework for living things. Kingdom - Class - Order - Family - Genus - Species. The mnemonic is *King Phillip Came Over for Good Soup*.
9. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark - hunting for the Northwest Passage, returned with 5000 pages of detailed drawings and collected species.
10. Alexander Humboldt - demonstrated that the earth had individual regions called biomes, where temperature, elevation, etc. affected life in that region. Identified the Humboldt Current, the magnetic field of earth, and vulcanism (how volcanoes work).
11. John James Audubon
12. Charles Darwin - theory of natural selection from his 5 year exploration on the *Beagle*.
13. Henry David Thoreau - most famous for his book, **Walden**. The first to see nature as intrinsically valuable and that humans must connect with these roots - rather than just as something to exploit.
14. Alfred Russel Wallace - trip to Brazil to collect specimens and make drawings and notes. All of his evidence was lost in a fire. In Indonesia he found evidence of a difference of species along *Wallace's Line* - where two continents are dividing. The first to think of plate tectonics.
15. John Muir - founder of the Sierra Club which eventually resulted in a National Park System in the US (which also influenced Canada). First to identify glaciation as a process for creating valleys.
16. Aldo Leopold - a wildlife ecologist who was the first to identify that removing a top predator (like wolves) can cause a population explosion among the prey that, in the end, is not good. His book, **The Land Ethic**, said that our purpose is not dominion but maintenance of nature.
17. Rachel Carson - wrote **Silent Spring** and founded the ecology movement demonstrating that birds were dying out because of the widespread use, around the world, of DDT to kill insects.
18. Mary Anning - for her extensive work in finding and describing fossils.



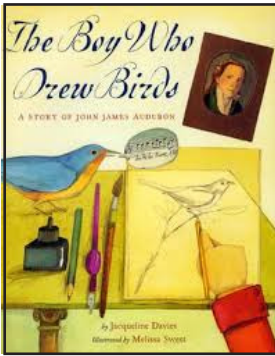


## AUDOBON PAINTINGS

### THE BOY WHO DREW BIRDS, CONT.







# LIST OF FAMOUS NATURALISTS

## THE BOY WHO DREW BIRDS, CONT.



**Mary Anning**



**Maria Merian**



**Alexander Humboldt**

1. Aristotle
2. Theophrastes
3. Pliny the Elder
4. Pedanos Dioscordes
5. Ferdinand Lucas Bauer
6. Andrea Cesalpino
7. Maria Sibylla Merian.
8. Carl Linnaeus
9. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark
10. Alexander Humboldt
11. John James Audobon
12. Charles Darwin
13. Henry David Thoreaus.
14. Alfred Russel Wallace
15. John Muir
16. Aldo Leopold
17. Rachel Carson
18. Mary Anning



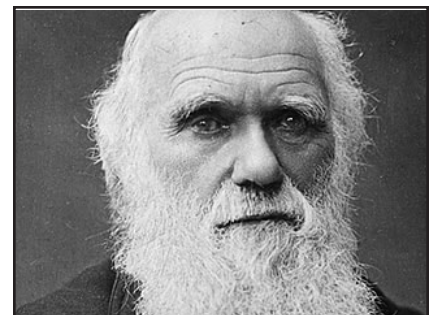
**Thoreau**



**Rachel Carson**



**John Audobon**



**Charles Darwin**