The illustration features a chickadee bird with a black cap and white breast, perched on a pine branch. The background is a vibrant blue, accented by a large, soft pink circle behind the title. Pine needles and red berries are scattered throughout the scene, creating a festive winter atmosphere.

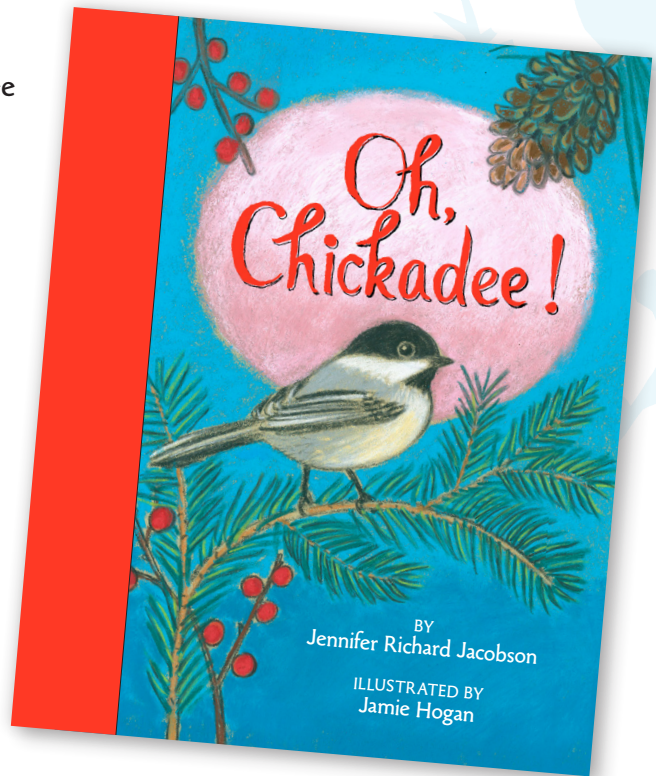
# Oh, Chickadee!

BY Jennifer Richard Jacobson    ILLUSTRATED BY Jamie Hogan

**CURRICULUM  
GUIDE**

## PRE-READING DISCUSSION

- Closely examine the illustration of the chickadee on the cover of the book. How would you describe the black-capped chickadee? What do you notice about its physical features?
- Why do you think Jennifer Jacobson titled this informational book *Oh, Chickadee!*?
- When do you think someone might exclaim, “Oh, Chickadee!”?
- Some possible prompts to start a discussion:
  - What do you know about chickadees? What do you wonder?
  - Maine has 292 species of birds. List as many bird species as you can.
  - What are some special features or adaptations of birds that you know?
- Read the statements in the Anticipation Guide on page 2. Students can determine if they agree or disagree with each statement. The Anticipation Guide can be completed as a whole class, in a small group, with a partner, or individually.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EACH CONTENT AREA

### 1. Reading

- a. Anticipation Guide
- b. Triple-Entry Vocabulary
- c. Open Sort of Chickadee Facts

### 2. Writing - Using *Oh, Chickadee!* as a Mentor Text

- a. Narrative - Connecting Leads and Conclusions
- b. Informative - Sequential Writing with Life Cycles
- c. Argument/Opinion - State Bird Debate

### 3. Social Studies

- a. Maine State Bird Debate

### 4. Science

- a. Life Cycle Examination
- b. Adaptation Superpowers

### 5. Craft

- a. Pine Cone Bird Feeder

# ANTICIPATION GUIDE

BEFORE READING			AFTER READING		
Agree	Disagree	Statement	Page Where Evidence Found	Agree	Disagree
		Chickadees make their nest in a tree.			
		Newborn chickadees use their talons to break through the eggshell.			
		Baby chickadees eat worms fed by their mothers.			
		Chickadees can make a hissing sound to scare away predators.			
		Chickadees stay with their family flock for their entire lives.			
		Chickadees warm their feet by tucking them into their feathers one at a time.			
		Shivering helps a chickadee stay alive during the cold winter months.			
		There are 10 species of chickadees in North America.			
		Black-capped chickadees weigh about 4 pounds.			
		A long string of "dees" at the end of the "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" call means danger.			

# TRIPLE-ENTRY VOCABULARY

Vocabulary Word/Term	Definition	Image/Memory Aid
cavity		
pip		
dangle		
fledgling		
forage		
frigid		
stash		
probe		

## OPEN SORT TASK

Students will read the following facts and sort them into categories. The goal is to create 3–6 categories for the 12 facts.

- Each category must have at least 2 cards.
- Students need to name the category for the facts. What do the facts have in common?
- Students need to be prepared to justify and explain why facts were placed in each category.

Students can work individually, with a partner or in a small group to complete this task.

*Note: You can adapt this activity by providing students with the categories for a closed sort. This task would require students to sort the facts into given categories, such as babies, survival, etc.*

Chickadees make their nests in a hole in a tree known as a cavity.	The female chickadee tends to lose her downy feathers in the summer so she can warm her eggs.	Papa chickadees bring food to the babies including caterpillars.	Chickadees lift their feet into their feathers to warm them during cold winter temperatures.
A long string of “dees” at the end of the “chick-a-dee-dee-dee” call means danger.	Baby chicks crack open the egg with the help of an egg tooth on top of their beak that eventually falls off.	Chickadees hide morsels of food in different spots to eat at a later time.	Chickadees can warm their body temperature to 100 degrees by shivering, even when the temperature approaches zero degrees.
Shivering helps the chickadee to stay alive during cold temperatures.	Chickadees get a winter coat of downy feathers to keep them warm in winter.	When a chickadee is ready, it goes in search of a new flock.	Chickadees can hiss like a snake for protection.

### Possible Sorting Extensions:

- Provide time for students to review the work of other groups to see if they categorized the facts differently. Prompt students to look for similarities and differences in the categorization.
- Ask students to re-sort the facts into new categories or determine if any cards can be placed in more than one category.
- Create an illustration for the concepts in each category.
- Provide blank cards so students can add additional chickadee facts to each category.
- Use the facts to craft a summary of chickadee facts.

# MAINE LEARNING RESULTS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY STANDARDS

## Maine Standards for Language

<b>Standard 3</b>	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style in writing and speaking, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
<b>Standard 4</b>	Use context clues, analyze meaningful word parts, and consult general and specialized reference materials as appropriate to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases from grade level content.

## Maine Standards for Reading

### Key Ideas and Details

<b>Standard 4</b>	Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.
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### Craft and Structure

<b>Standard 8</b>	Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.
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## WRITING

1. You may have noticed that *Oh, Chickadee!* begins and ends with the line,

*In a hole,  
in a tree,  
there is a nest.*

**Narrative Writing Task:** Craft a narrative piece about an informational topic or event. Begin by describing the setting in a similar structure as Jennifer Jacobson. Can you use the same opening and closing line for your writing?

2. *Oh, Chickadee!* Focuses on the life-cycle of the black-capped chickadee. Select a bird or animal to research facts about the life cycle and development of your chosen species.

**Informative Writing Task:** Create an informative piece of writing that focuses on the sequential events in the growth and development of your chosen animal. Give special attention to your word choice, specifically adjectives and verbs, that can be used to vividly describe moments in the life cycle of your topic.

3. See Social Studies debate task on the next page.

**Opinion/Argument Writing Task:** Students will decide which bird should represent the state of Maine (or their state). Use reasons and evidence to support your opinion.

### Maine Standards for Writing

Inquiry to Build and Present Knowledge	
<b>Standard 1</b>	Use an inquiry process to gather relevant, credible information/evidence from a variety of sources that build understanding of and lead to conclusions about a subject under investigation while avoiding plagiarism.
Process and Production	
<b>Standard 2</b>	Develop, strengthen, and produce polished writing by using a collaborative process that includes the age-appropriate use of technology.
Composing for Audience and Purpose	
<b>Standard 3</b>	Routinely produce a variety of clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, audience, and purpose.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The chickadee was named the Maine state bird in 1927, but officials did not specify which species of chickadee would represent our state. Although the black-capped chickadee may be more familiar to most Mainers, boreal chickadees are also found in Maine. In 2019, the Maine State Legislature debated if they should determine which species of chickadee should be our official state bird, but the bill did not move out of the legislative committee.

According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine is home to 292 species of birds. What do you think should be the Maine state bird? Would you select the black-capped chickadee, the boreal chickadee... or is there a different species that you think would best represent our state? Your task is to craft an argument with facts and details to support your opinion.

### Possible References for a Maine State Bird Debate

- <https://www.mainefeatures.me/blog/chickadee>
- <https://maineaudubon.org/news/the-state-of-the-state-bird/>
- <https://birdfact.com/articles/state-bird-of-maine>
- <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/birds/index.html>

Maine teachers can integrate this book into a unit exploring the state of Maine.

### Maine Standards for Speaking and Listening

#### Comprehension and Collaboration

**Standard 1**

Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

#### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

**Standard 3**

Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.



# SCIENCE

## Life Cycle

Draw and describe the sequence of events in the life cycle of a chickadee. Your life cycle must include 5-10 events in the growth and development of a chickadee. Use details from the text to describe events in your cycle.

## Chickadee Superpower Adaptations

Chickadees have special structural and behavioral adaptations to help them survive, especially during the cold winter months in Maine.

- Sketch the chickadee and label the structural adaptations that help the chickadee to survive. (Teachers could also provide a photograph of a chickadee for students to label.)
- Chickadees also have important behavioral adaptations that help them to survive, specifically in the winter.
  - Create and illustrate a Chickadee Power Suit including both structural and behavioral adaptations. Write a brief description of the powers included in your suit.
  - Choose one important behavioral adaptation. Write a brief description explaining how the adaptation helps the chickadee to survive. Explain what would happen if the chickadee did not have this adaptation.

### Possible Adaptation Resource: *Wild Kratts Chickadee Challenge!*

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64ForEJ1-7U>

## Next Generation Science Standards Alignment

### 3. Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits

#### 3-LS1-1

Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction and death.

### 4. Structure, Function, and Information Processing

#### 4-LS1-1

Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

## CRAFT FOR BIRD FEEDER

Here are steps for creating a pine cone bird feeder! Chickadees would love to visit your bird feeder any time of year, especially during the cold winter months!

<https://glazart.com/how-to-make-pine-cone-bird-feeders/>

