

# THE ALPHABET BIRD PROJECT

# INSTRUCTION SHEET

## Before you begin

Choose an Alphabet Bird from the list provided on the SWIFFT website:

[bit.ly/2NyOWcR](http://bit.ly/2NyOWcR)

## Materials required



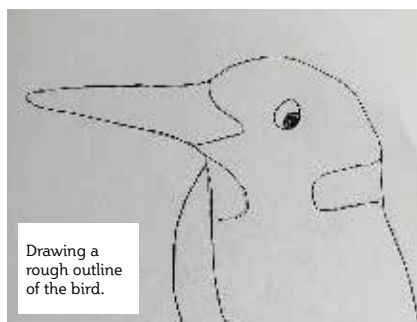
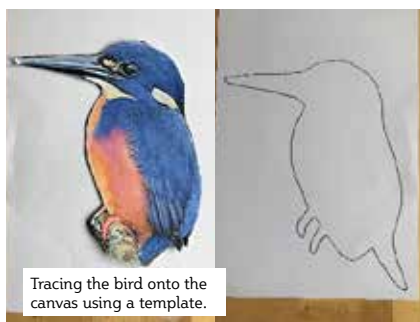
- A printer
- A piece of A4 paper to print your bird outline
- Cardboard – A4-sized medium-weight (you could use recycled cereal boxes)
- Scissors
- Magazines and coloured paper – house and garden magazines are best, as the pictures have large blocks of colour
- Glue
- A storage wallet or clip to collate your magazine clippings

## STEP 1

Visit [geelongaustralia.com.au/environment](http://geelongaustralia.com.au/environment) and click on the link to the Alphabet Bird Project.

Find the 'A to Z bird outline' PDF and print the outline of your preferred bird.

**Tip:** Save paper by only printing the page you need.



## STEP 2

Paste your bird outline onto cardboard, or a recycled cereal box, then let the glue dry.

**Tip:** Do not cut out the bird yet.

## STEP 3

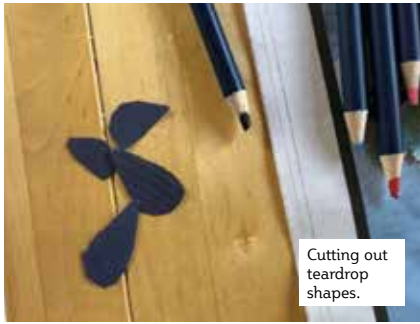
Draw a rough outline of the bird's eye, as well as the lines that separate the main blocks of colour.

**Tip:** If you are making a collage, you may want to label each block with the colour it represents. These will be covered over later when you paste on the paper feathers.

## STEP 4

Look through your magazines and cut out pages with colours that match your chosen bird. These should be collated into a library of colour and clipped together, or placed into a storage wallet, ready to collage.

**Tip:** Looking at and selecting colours is a great activity. See all the different shades and tones you can find for each colour.

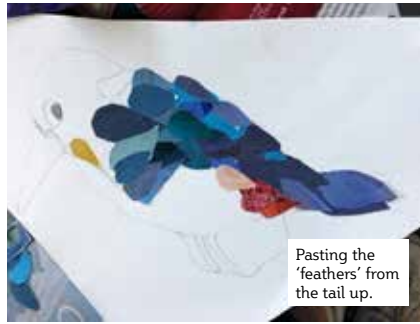


Cutting out teardrop shapes.

## STEP 5

Cut simple teardrop or feather-shapes out of your coloured paper.

**Tip: Bigger is better when cutting out your feather shapes, but try to keep them under 2 cm long (about the size of a ten-cent coin).**



Pasting the 'feathers' from the tail up.

## STEP 6

Start pasting the 'feathers' on from the tail up, as shown in the photo. Starting at this end allows the feathers to lie on top of each other in a realistic way.

**Tip: Keep referring back to the photo of your chosen bird while doing this step.**



A completed Azure Kingfisher collage.

## STEP 7

Once you've added all the feathers, let the glue to dry then cut around the outline of your bird. You may need help from an adult to do this.

Now your bird is complete.

**Tip: Stick your bird up in your room, or face it out into the street to show your neighbours.**



Colouring in the bird outline with pencil.

## Alternative suggestion

If you don't have any magazines or coloured paper, colour the birds using pencils and paints instead.

**Tip: Watercolour pencils are particularly good to use for this work, as you can 'paint' your bird with water after colouring, adding to the overall effect.**

## Learn about your bird

Once your artwork is complete, go online and find out more about your bird. Look for:

- what your bird eats
- where it lives
- what you can do to help protect it.

Useful websites to visit include:

- **SWIFFT – State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams**  
bit.ly/2NyOWcR
- **eBird Australia**  
ebird.org/australia

- **birdlife Australia**  
birdlife.org.au
- **Geelong Wetland Wanderings**  
geelongaustralia.com.au/environment

## Finished?

Visit [geelongaustralia.com.au/environment](http://geelongaustralia.com.au/environment) and download another of our Alphabet Bird outlines to create a whole new artwork.

