

# Home-School Connection #14

12.17.15

Write at least 4 D/W Questions



Pygmy Falcon- Smallest Bird of Prey

**FRANKLIN PARK ZOO TRIP:** We had a big, fun, day at the zoo. We almost had the whole place to ourselves. Before going, we discussed why some people are against zoos. For example, when I was little, I was brought to a New York City zoo in Central Park. I saw a cage not much bigger than our river table with a lion inside.. It was the saddest sight. . Now, many zoos are helping keep animals species from going extinct. You can click to see what else the zoo is doing.

<http://www.zoonewengland.org/protect/around-the-globe> Do your parents have positive or negative memories of zoos? What do they think of them now? Why do you think we went to the zoo? Share what you wrote in your review. If you went back with your family, where would you spend more time?

**MURDER OF CROWS:** Now we are watching a movie called, *A Murder of Crows*. We learned that crows have been seen as pests and bad omens, but now scientists think crows are one of the smartest animals on the planet.. Research shows crows can build and use tools and they can pass knowledge from one generation to the next.. The movie said that is how culture develops. Ask your parents about what parts of their own culture might be passed on to you. Why do you think building tools and communication are seen as signs of intelligence?

**BIRDS, AUDUBON & MIGRATION & PHILOSOPHY:** We read a book called, *The Boy Who Drew Birds*. It's about John Audubon. Audubon was raised in France, but was moved to the U.S. to avoid fighting in Napoleon's army. We did not have time to discuss Napoleon and his army, Audubon loved to observe birds. He wondered if the small birds would go away and come back. He figured out how to band their legs and they did return. He was the first to prove this. Before him philosophers and scientists had some wacky ideas about where birds went in the winter. Some of hought they transformed into different birds in the winter. Some thought they hid under water.

# Home-School Connection #13

12.11.15

This lead to a conversation about what philosophers do. If you are interested, talk to your parents about any philosophy or philosophers they know about. If you could be a naturalist, what type of animal or habitat would you want to study? Why do you think some birds migrate and some don't?

**MADE IN:** As we study economics, we are looking at where in the world things are made and what they are made out of. You looked at labels on clothing.. Many of you predicted your items would be made in China. Ask your family to guess which countries came up the most so far. We discussed how some countries do not have a minimum wage and so businesses will bring their companies there. It's tricky because a shirt might have been "made" in many countries. The cotton might have been collected in one country, turned into fabric in another country and sewn into a shirt in another country. Our class was also wondering about what some materials like polyester or nylon are made out of. We are also focusing on economics to help us understand where colonists got their products. Ask your family members if they have ever spent time thinking about where things are made, how they are made or how much they should cost to buy or sell.



**SPECIALS:** : What are you doing in art, music, chinese, PE, COB, library? Pick one and write topic and question.

**OTHER:** Morning Meeting topics, Web-nesday, fractions, poetry, Wangari, exercise, skills or something else? What did you talk about?

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Due: Monday: We made a time to do this on:\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Comments:

Student Rating (1-5): Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.