

Name:

Date:

Classification – Activity 4

The RSPB

In the Victorian era feathered hats were all the rage, but this meant that large numbers of birds were being killed for their plumage. In 1889 Emily Williamson established the Society for the Protection of Birds, with the aim of protecting birds worldwide and setting the rule that only feathers from birds killed for meat, or feathers that birds had naturally moulted, could be used in fashion. The group was so popular that it gained its Royal Charter and became the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in 1904. Today the RSPB establishes conservation areas for birds nationwide and works to pass laws to further protect them.

For this activity you're going to get out and about to see what feathers you can find in your garden, the park, wood or even out on the pavement! Can you find 10 different feathers? Use the chart to describe each feather and do some research into British birds to see if you can identify which birds the feathers came from. After that, use the feathers to design your very own Victorian RSPB-friendly hat on the next page! Why not look up some Victorian ladies' hats for inspiration? Don't forget to show us pictures of your work, we'd love to see what you come up with!

Feather number:	Description:	What bird did it come from?
1)		
2)		

Name:

Date:

3_)		
4)		
5)		
6)		
7)		
8)		
(9		
10)		

Name:

Date:

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