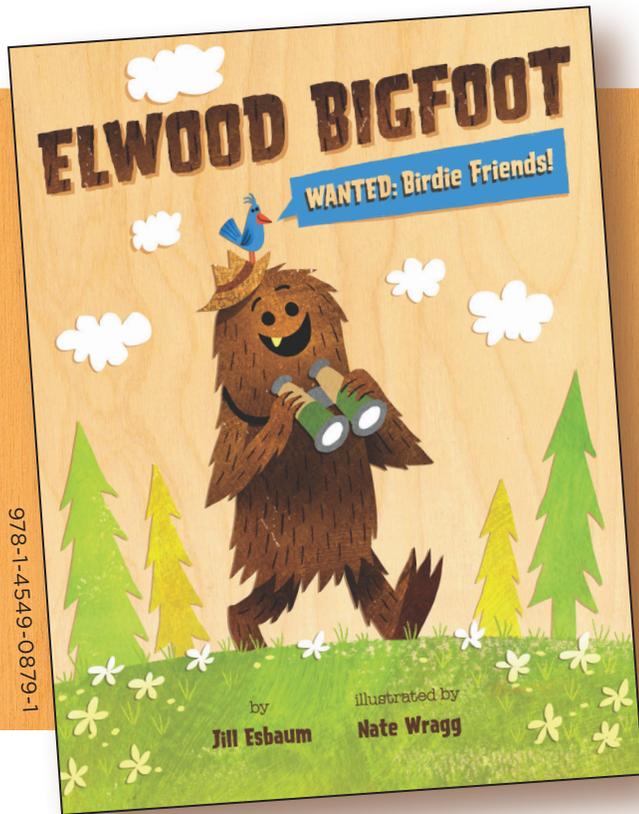


ACTIVITY KIT



ELWOOD BIGFOOT WANTED: Birdie Friends!

By

Jill Esbaum

Illustrated by

Nate Wragg

ELWOOD BIGFOOT is lonely. Literally the world's biggest birdwatcher, Elwood would love nothing more than a flock of birdie friends. He tries everything he can think of to get the birdies to like him. He builds his house in a tree. He dresses like a birdie. He throws a birdie party. He even builds a birdie theme park! But still the birdies stay away. Dejected, he lies in the grass, quiet and still, and a chickadee approaches Has Elwood discovered the secret to making birdie friends at last?

Young children will love boisterous, exuberant Elwood and this charming tale of friendship.

Use the fun activities in this kit to explore Elwood's world and make some birdie friends of your own!

"Bright, enticing cartoon illustrations and a character many can identify with will hook storytimers and new readers."

-Kirkus Reviews



Friendship Bracelets

Elwood loves his birdie friends! Cut out the bracelets below and share them with *your* friends. Wrap around a wrist and tape to secure.



Making Birdie Friends

Elwood tries everything he can think of to make the birdies like him. What do you think is the best way to make birdie friends?



Elwood Mask

Print this page on cardstock. Cut on the dotted lines below. Tape a craft stick to the bottom of the image for a handle.



Birdie Disguise

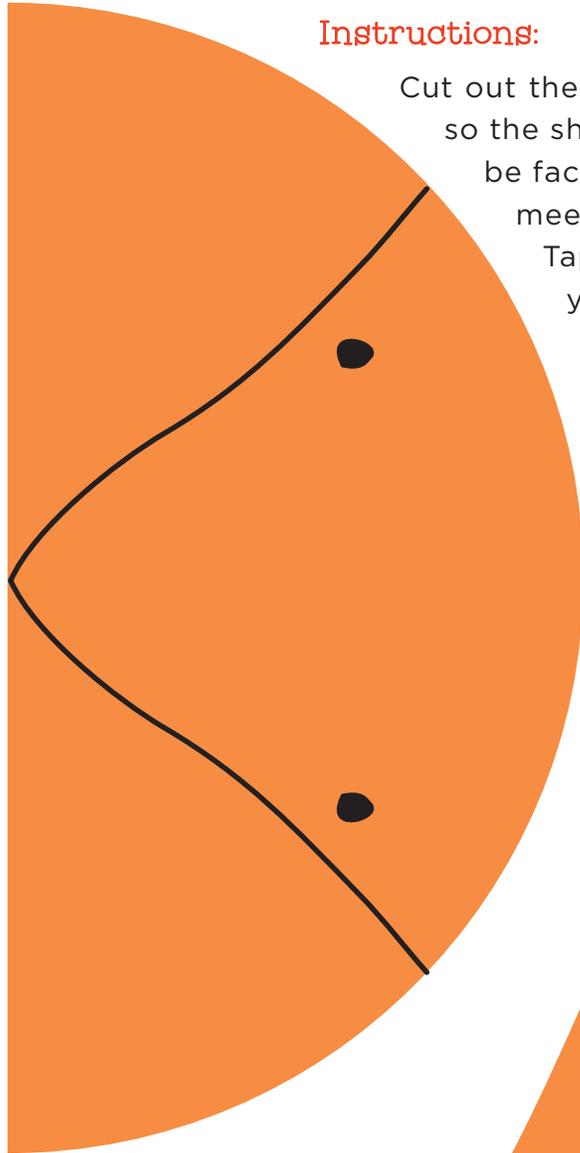
Use the Elwood mask and these birdie disguises with friends to act out Elwood's story and your own ideas from the Making Birdie Friends sheet in this kit.

Instructions:

Cut out the beak. Hold the half circle with the flat side at the top so the shape resembles a U. The white side of the paper should be facing you. Pull the two upper corners toward you so they meet and the flat sides of the half circle come together. Tape to secure. The taped edge becomes the bottom of your beak. Take two 12-18-inch long pieces of string or yarn and tape one end to both sides of the inside of your beak. Hold the beak in place over your nose and have a friend tie the two strings together at the back of your head with a bow.

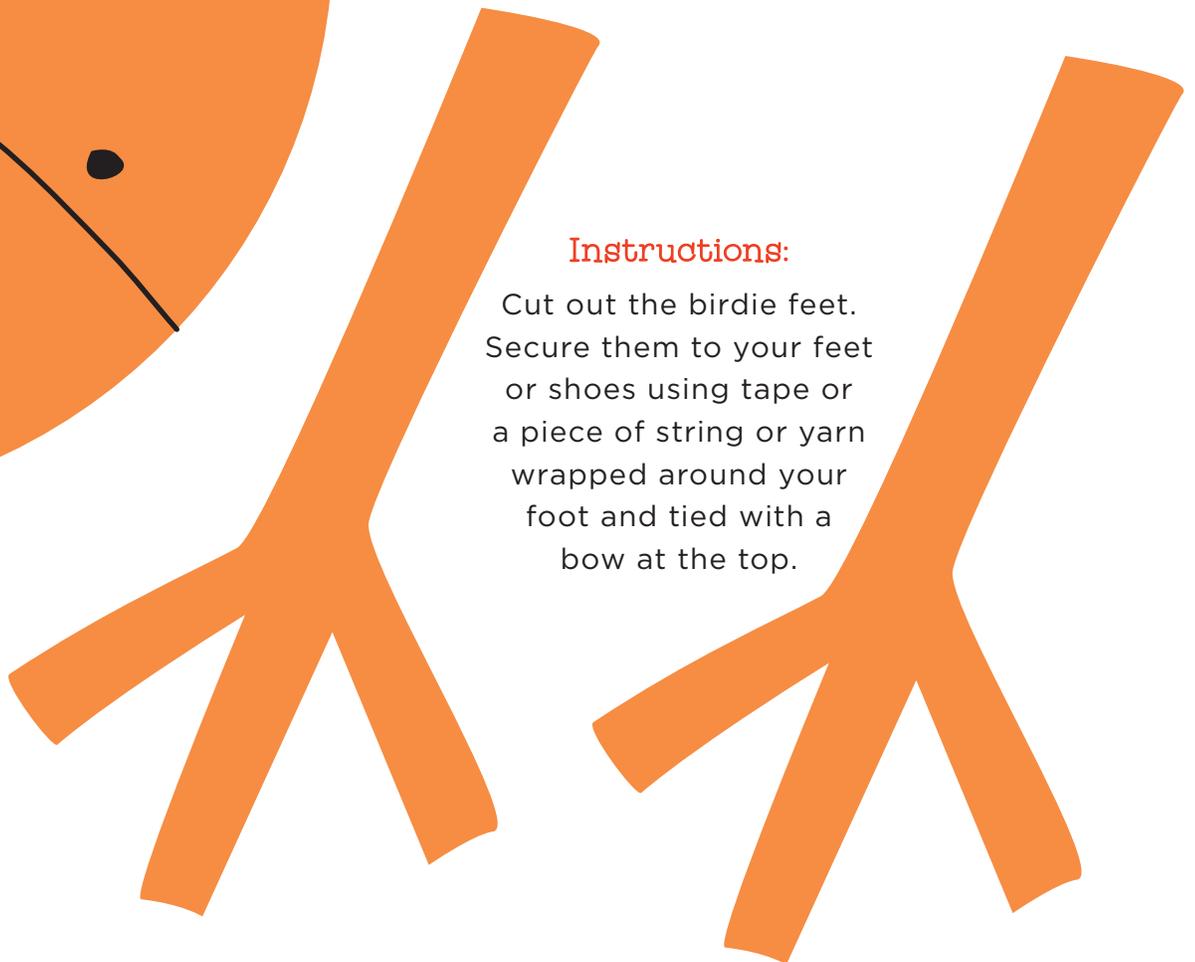
Can you sing like an indigo bunting?

Chew, chew, sweet-sweet-sweet!



Instructions:

Cut out the birdie feet. Secure them to your feet or shoes using tape or a piece of string or yarn wrapped around your foot and tied with a bow at the top.



Birdie Art

Elwood is an avid birdwatcher. He loves to listen to birdies' songs and admire their colorful feathers. Can you draw a flock of birdies for Elwood to watch?





Birdie Feeders

Invite birdies over for lunch! Make one or more of the bird feeders described below. Hang them in a tree and sit quietly nearby to watch your new birdie friends enjoy a tasty snack!



Pie Plate Feeder

Using a hole punch, create three holes equidistant apart on the rim of a foil pie plate. Tie a 24-inch length of yarn or string through each hole and join the strings above the pie plate. Secure the strings to a tree branch, making sure the pie plate is level. Fill the plate with bird seed.



Pinecone Feeder

Tie an 18-inch piece of yarn or string to the top of a pinecone. With a plastic knife, wipe peanut butter all over the pinecone. Roll the cone in bird seed, pressing down so the seeds stick to the peanut butter. Hang the string from a tree branch so that the pinecone is near other branches for the birds to perch upon while they dine.



Milk Jug Feeder

Cut two large holes in the sides of an empty plastic milk jug. Use a piece of yarn or string to secure a pencil through the two cut holes to form a perch. Tie a 12-inch piece of yarn or string around the middle of a pen. Insert the pen inside the large opening and thread the string up through the pour spout of the jug, pulling taut so that the pen is snug in the neck of the jug. Tie the string to a tree branch. Fill the base of your jug with birdseed.