

BIRD CALLS!

When we hum, sing or speak, our voices come from our **larynx**, near the top of our throat, where our **vocal cords** vibrate against each other.

But birds don't have vocal cords, so they use something called a **syrinx**, which is a bony structure further down the neck that only birds have.

WARM UP

Warm up your voice by humming quietly. Change your pitch and tone to feel the different types of vibration.

Now how do the vibrations feel when you sing a note instead?

Starting with a hum, push a note past your lips (Think of saying 'mmm-aaa!'), visualising the sound traveling up your neck and out of your mouth - shooting out in front of you.

LISTENING

Sit in your garden or open a window and listen for bird calls.

How many different types can you hear?

Sometimes one species will have different calls to say different things. For example begging calls, warning calls, call and responses to find each other (like the game marco polo!)

In my garden I can hear wood pigeons, sea gulls, sparrows... and some calls that I can't quite recognise!

COPY (LIKE A PARROT!)

Different sounds use different parts of your mouth, throat and chest.

See how your mouth changes shape as you try to imitate the birds. As well as playing with pitch and tone, try whistling, rolling your 'R's or making guttural noises like the letter 'K'.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Come up with your own bird language.

Have a sound for each important message like "Nice to meet you" "danger!" "I'm hungry".