

Introducing Trumpeter Swans

Objectives

Student will learn about the history, biology, and ecology of Trumpeter Swans and the efforts to conserve them in the Blackfoot.

Method

Students watch a narrated slide show to learn the basics of Trumpeter Swan natural history and conservation. They answer review questions based on the video and complete a writing project of your (or their) choice that incorporates their understanding of Trumpeter Swans.

Materials

- [Swan Introductory Slideshow](#)
- Additional [Background Information](#) on Trumpeter Swans in the Blackfoot
- Appropriate sources to learn more about Trumpeter Swans:
 - [The Trumpeter Swan Society](#)
 - [All About Birds](#)

Procedure

1. Begin by having your students view the narrated Swan Introductory Slide Show. After they have viewed it, ask students to answer the [Review Questions](#).
2. After they have answered the questions, have them complete a writing assignment using one of the following prompts. You can either choose one for them or let them choose which one to do.
 - a. You work for a local newspaper, and the editor has asked you to write a story about the Trumpeter Swans the residents have been sighting in area lakes and wetlands. Your assignment is to let readers know how to identify Trumpeter Swans, where they live and the kind of habitat they need, and how they came to be in the Blackfoot.
 - b. You are a biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. A biologist in another part of the state is interested in trying to help Trumpeter Swans return to their area, and they have asked you for advice. Share the information you know that would help them decide what swans need, if good swan habitat is available, and what else they need to do.
 - c. Produce a *Field Guide to Trumpeter Swans*, based on your knowledge. Be sure to include sections on identification, life history (survival, nesting, migration, etc.) habitat needs, threats, and conservation.