



# Corncrake Calling Game

Today

## Introduction

As corncrakes like to live amongst the long grass and plants, and due to the fact they call at night, it makes counting them by sight impossible. Scientists therefore have to go out at night during the hours of 12-3am (when it is dark) and use their ears to identify how many calling birds they can hear. This game will allow children to experience what is like to try and count a number of birds by hearing alone.

## What you will need

- \* A number of musical instruments that help to make the sound of a corncrake (our top recommendations is a guiro, but you can also use a hair comb with a pen!)
- \* Blindfolds
- \* The sound of a corncrake calling downloaded - follow this QR code

## Instructions

1. Get pupils in to groups of 3 or 4 and play them the sound of a corncrake calling. Ask one pupil from each group to come and collect a musical instrument to take back to their group and ask them to try and recreate the sound of a corncrake calling.
2. Once groups have had some time to perfect their corncrake call, ask each group in turn to let everyone hear their sound - you may want to play the sound of the corncrake calling again to remind them of the real thing.
3. Collect the instruments back in for now, and then ask for 4 or 5 volunteers to act as scientists. They will go out the room with another adult until it is time for them to do their corncrake survey.
4. Ask the remaining children to decide how many corncrake should be calling and hand out this number of instruments to some volunteers. Ask them to hide the instruments for now so the scientist don't spot them.
5. Invite the scientists to come back in to the room and hand each of them a blindfold to put on. The children with the instruments will then play like a corncrake and the scientists have to guess how many corncrakes they can hear. Asking them to cup their hands around their ears and moving their head from side to side can help filter the sounds to their ears! That's what RSPB scientists do!

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