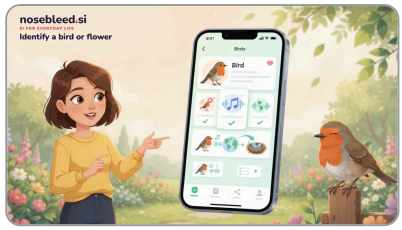
Identify a bird or flower



Use AI to suggest what a bird or flower might be, from a photo or a description, and know when to double-check.

By the end, you'll be able to:

- take a useful photo, or give a good description
- use AI to suggest what it is
- know the limits, and stay safe with wild plants

Warm-up What did you spot last?

Talk about it with your group. A bird in the garden? A flower on a walk? Did you know what it was?

1 Good clues

Tick what would help AI identify a bird.

	Helpful	Not needed
Its size (compared with a robin or a pigeon)		
Its colours and markings		
Where you saw it (garden, river, woods)		
What it was doing (feeding, singing, swimming)		
The month you saw it		
Your favourite bird		

2 Ask AI

If you have a device, share a photo, or try this description.

TRY THIS PROMPT

I saw a small bird in my garden in Kent in January, about the size of a robin. It had a black cap, a yellow-green back, a yellow front with a black stripe down the middle, and it was hanging upside down on the bird feeder. What could it be? Please give me your best guess, and how sure you are.

What did AI suggest? How sure was it?

3 A safety check

An AI identified a flower like this. What's wrong with its answer?

EXAMPLE AI ANSWER

This is a foxglove. Its tall spikes of purple bell-shaped flowers are lovely in early summer. The leaves can be used to make a soothing herbal tea.

4 Take a good photo

Write three tips for taking a photo that AI (or an expert) could identify.

5 Good habits

- AI's answer is a suggestion. Compare it with a field guide or a trusted website.
- **Never** eat a wild plant, berry or mushroom because an app or AI says it's safe.
- Watch birds from a distance, and never disturb a nest.

> **No device?** In pairs, describe a bird or flower you know well, without naming it. Can your partner guess what it is?

Find out more: read the free step-by-step guide, with a 10-second video, at **nosebleed.si/ideas/identify-a-bird-or-flower**

Teacher notes: Identify a bird or flower

Time: 45 to 60 minutes

Group: any size; works well in pairs

Level: beginners; no AI experience needed

You'll need: a copy per learner; a bird or wild flower guide (optional); phones or tablets with an AI chat app (optional)

Before the session

Try the prompt yourself. A bird book or wild flower guide is useful for checking answers. If you can, go outside and try the photo tips.

Running order

5 min	**Warm-up.** Recent sightings.
10 min	**Part 1.** Good clues.
20 min	**Parts 2 and 3.** Try the prompt, then the safety check.
10 min	**Part 4.** Photo tips.
5 min	**Wrap-up.** A suggestion, not a certainty.

Answers: Part 1

All helpful except your favourite bird.

Part 2

The bird described is a great tit: black cap, yellow front with a black stripe, often acrobatic at feeders.

Answers: Part 3

The tea is **dangerous**. All parts of the foxglove are poisonous. The identification may be right, but the extra "fact" could cause real harm.

Answers: Part 4

Get as close as you safely can; keep it in focus; show the whole flower or bird, and the leaves; take a few photos from different angles; good daylight helps.

Discussion points

- AI can be wrong about similar-looking species.
- Some apps are made just for identifying birds, by song or photo, or plants. Charities such as the RSPB have free guides too.

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