

How Did Birds Gain Political Protection?



Ross, G. (1911) The woman behind the gun / Gordon Ross. , 1911. N.Y.: Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, Puck Building.
[Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011648990/>.

Supporting Questions

1. How did the women's fashion industry impact migratory birds from 1896-1918?
2. What methods of persuasion were used by Harriet Hemenway, Minna Hall and other women to protect the birds.
3. What protections did state and national laws provide for birds in the early 1900s?

Citizen Efforts to Change Environmental Policy in the Late 1800's

Developed by the TPS Eastern Regional TEAM

How Did Birds Gain Political Protection?	
Inquiry Standard	C3 (social studies): D2.Civ.2.3-5. Explain how a democracy relies on people's responsible participation, and draw implications for how individuals should participate. <i>NGSS (science):</i> 5-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.
Staging the Compelling Question	Read the children's picture book, <i>She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head</i> by Kathryn Lasky or watch the YouTube video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H47mesCpF-w). Discuss the concept of grassroots actions to change social behavior.

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
How did the women's fashion industry impact migratory birds from 1896-1918?	What methods of persuasion were used by Harriet Hemenway, Minna Hall and other women to protect the birds.	What protections did state and national laws provide for birds in the early 1900s?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Make a list of the way bird feathers were gathered and used to make women's hats from 1896-1918.	Write a paragraph describing the persuasive techniques used in the grassroots efforts to protect the birds.	Compare and contrast the state and national regulations for migratory bird protection passed in 1912 and 1918.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
Source A: Peril of the Birds Source B: He Made A Fortune In Feathers Source C: Slaughter of the Innocents Source D: Head and shoulders of model wearing "Chanticleer" hat of bird feathers Source E: Biggest Thing About This New "Paris Creation" is the Price Tag. Source F: The Woman Behind the Gun	Source A: How Two Women Ended the Deadly Feather Trade Source B: Protection for the Birds Source C: Women Move in the Work of Stopping Revival of a Cruel Fashion Source D: Suffrage Cartoon Source E: Roosevelt, friend of the birds.	Source A: Beginning of a New Industry: Sale of Wild Game Prohibited in Massachusetts Source B: Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 Source C: The History and Evolution of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Summative Performance Task	ARGUMENT How did birds gain political protection? Write an argument to answer this question consisting of a series of claims with supporting evidence that draws from all three formative tasks and shows how the laws passed in the early 1900s reflected the goals of the grassroots campaign started in the late 1800s by Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall.
	EXTENSION Create a political advertisement or cartoon that might have been used to convince people to stop using breeding feathers from birds. It can be in the form of a poster, flyer, a town-crier type announcement, a chart or a graph.
Taking Informed Action	UNDERSTAND Interview people about their consumer choices not to purchase something because it may cause harm to someone or something. ASSESS Consider how you could inform others of the harmful effects of buying certain consumer products. ACTION Create a poster, flyer, or written announcement to convince others to stop buying a particular product that has harmed someone or something.

Inquiry Description

This is a cross-curricular approach to investigate grassroots political efforts. Grassroots political efforts are not new to our democracy. The term was coined in this unhyphenated form between 1910 and 1915 in the U.S. In this inquiry, students will analyze sources about a successful grassroots political effort that began in the late 1800's by women to pass the Migratory Bird Act of 1913, even while in most states they did not have the right to vote. First, students will define the term grassroots, as it relates to political efforts. As a literary connection, this inquiry uses a work of historical fiction to set the scene for the study in a humorous way. The main characters of the story, Minna Hall and Harriet Hemmenway, were appalled by the effects on the environment by the current fashion craze of women to wear elaborately feathered hats. This fashion statement almost wiped out many of the bird populations in the U.S. Once the facts are gathered and verified, students will investigate the different parties involved in the issue. The primary sources include advertisements for elaborate and expensive feathered hats, a newspaper article which reveals the author's sympathy for the birds, a film that shows the process of collecting the feathers and features a Teddy Roosevelt, the preservationist in 1915, and a political cartoon on the issue. These sources will help the students understand the issue on a deeper level and should evoke new questions for discussion. The STEM connection will be revealed while studying the different viewpoints. The environmental effects of the Migratory Bird Act are still relevant today. This inquiry could be used to introduce or provide examples of concepts such as population dynamics and ecosystems and what outcomes occurred because of the passage of this law. Students will use the data they gathered on this issue to complete a variety of tasks that serve to give the students a voice on this grassroots effort of these women.

Structure

Students will define "grassroots" as it pertains to political efforts.

Students will corroborate the evidence that is revealed in the historical fiction book and in other sources as they gather the facts about this grassroots political effort. They may refine the definition of grassroots in this process.

Students will use the Library of Congress Analysis tool and the SCIM-C inquiry strategy to analyze and gather data about the point of view of their source.

From here, students will make inferences on the obstacles that these women had to overcome and what efforts were successful in influencing the parties to change.

Students will use the evidence they gathered in this investigation to write an explanatory essay on the successes of this grassroots effort.

This investigation will prepare students to complete the Informed Action task assigned by giving them information on the process of grassroots citizen actions. This combined with their knowledge of the legislative process will assist them in understanding their role in a democracy.

Staging the Compelling Question	
Compelling Question	How Did Birds Gain Political Protection?
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source A: She's Wearing a Dead Bird On Her Head

Staging the compelling question

Children's picture books are appropriate for all ages. *She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head* was selected for two reasons. It is a fictional history that sticks very close to the facts at the same time it is entertaining and visually provocative. Like many picture stories, this one illustrates one or more philosophical concepts or big ideas that we want students to learn. At first glance it is a story about protecting migratory birds. A second look points to the larger idea of conservation or environmentalism in general but the biggest idea of all and the one this IDM focuses on is grassroots activism. Because this story was based in fact, the primary source set that accompanies this IDM includes newspaper articles, cartoons and periodical illustrations from the time period and location. We are using the raw materials of history to engage our students in making their world a better place.

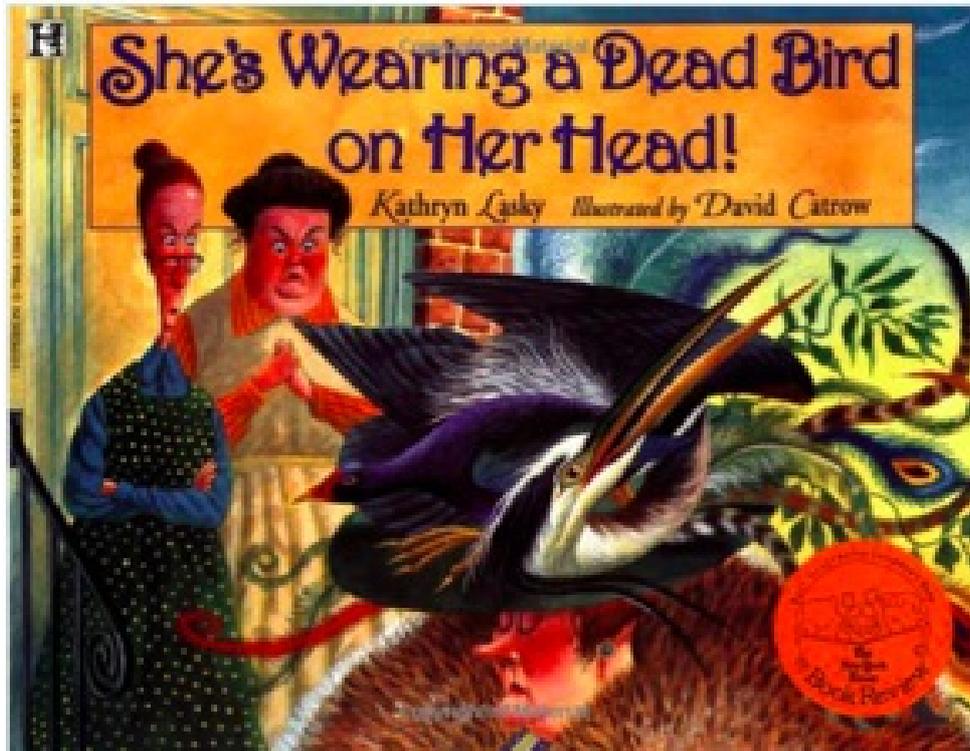
After reading the story, ask the students:

1. What problem did Harriet and Minna have with women's fashions in 1896?
2. What did they do about it?
3. What was the impact of their actions?

Conclude the discussion by telling students that this book is an example of a grassroots campaign and asking them to come up with a definition of grassroots in their own words working in pairs or small groups.

Compelling Question

Featured Source A | She's Wearing a Dead Bird On Her Head



She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head

Written by Kathryn Lasky Illustrated by David Catrow

Dead Bird on Her Head Kids Reading with English Subtitles (YouTube video)

After watching women go from having bird feathers in their hats to wearing whole dead birds, the Massachusetts Audubon Society is founded in 1896 to take a stand against what they consider an incredibly appalling practice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H47mesCpF-w>

Supporting Question 1

Supporting Question	How did the women’s fashion industry impact migratory birds from 1896-1918?
Formative Performance Task	Make a list of the way bird feathers were gathered and used to make women’s hats from 1896-1918.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source A: Peril of the Birds ● Source B: He Made A Fortune In Feathers ● Source C: Slaughter of the Innocents ● Source D: Head and shoulders of model wearing "Chanticleer" hat of bird feathers ● Source E: Biggest Thing About This New “Paris Creation” is the Price Tag. ● Source F: The Woman Behind the Gun
Additional Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary Source Analysis Tool.pdf (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/b/6/4/a/151/b64ae96304a889aa4018340402be1be22d74b1cf.pdf) ● Analyzing Newspapers.pdf (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/e/f/c/0/151/efc01da78d3af0560957f5be8845d72d1c1791c4.pdf) ● Analyzing Photographs and Prints.pdf (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/1/6/2/a/151/162a124a85cc675962554141f71006729e339841.pdf) ● Analyzing Political Cartoons.pdf (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/a/1/8/7/151/a1876b3a37e898bb5dfcd0c4d0fa77611495ba33.pdf)

This question is raised to demonstrate the correlation between the women's hat fashion at the turn of the 20th century and the near extinction of migratory birds. It will easy for students to see how the cruel treatment of the birds motivated women to take political action.

Formative Performance Task

The six primary sources featured here includes newspaper articles about the cruel treatment of the birds as well as photographs of women of haute fashion wearing the outlandishly enormous and expensive hats. The final primary source is a political cartoon that harpoons the French Millinery industry. These primary sources corroborate the fictional story, *She's Wearing a Dead Bird On Her Head*, that was used to introduce this unit.

The formative performance task can best be accomplished by using the Jig Saw cooperative learning strategy giving each primary source to a different Expert Team to analyze using the Library of Congress Analysis Tool for either newspaper articles or cartoons. "Experts" will then teach their home team what the Expert Team learned about the source.

In the additional materials, you will find the Library of Congress Analysis Tool Teachers Guides for Newspapers, Photographs and Prints, and Cartoons. These guides provide suggestions for question prompts. You will also find a blank student worksheet that may be printed in multiple copies.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source A

Peril of the Birds

Excerpt

TRANSCRIPTED excerpt from original newspaper article
Click on link in citation to see full article.

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER, MONDAY DECEMBER 21, 1896

PERIL OF THE BIRDS
EXTERMINATION THREATENED BY THE PREVAILING FASHIONS
IF THE WOMEN ONLY REALIZED

That the Slaughter of Birds that they May Ornament Their Bodies is Taking From Mankind One of the Greatest Blessings They Would Cry Down their Fashion – An Interesting Article that Every Woman Should Heed.

New York Sun

Once more the rage for decorating hats with birds has taken possession of womankind. Every other woman met in the streets of New York has a bird pressed against the crown or perched on the brim of her hat. The women who haven't such a decoration use wings, aigrettes or feathers instead. Every bird lover hoped and sincerely believed that the crusade against this custom several years ago had sent it out of vogue forever. But here it is again, and there is nothing for bird lovers to do but to go to work with renewed zeal and create a sentiment against the slaughter of myriads of innocent songsters.

It is impossible to say who is responsible for the revival of the bird and feather fashion. Millinery buyers say that it began in Paris, and that London and New York followed suit. One thing is certain, though, and that is that every shop window in the city filled with hats, bonnets and turbans has behind the glass an ornithological exhibit which would do credit to a museum of natural history. Tender-hearted, sympathetic woman goes into ecstasies over these exhibits and decides that she must own a bonnet with a bird on it. She never stops to think of the millions of lives that have been destroyed to gratify her vanity and that of her sisters; nor does she realize, it is to be hoped, that in seven cases out of ten, the extinction of each life mean either the loss of several eggs or the starving of a number of fledglings in the nest. But it is a fact that professional prime hunters find their business more profitable in nesting time than in any other.

Lovers of birds know that all over the world many varieties of the finest birds have already been decimated and some have been exterminated by the demand for these feathers. The woods and fields are being stripped of one of their chief attractions and the country deprived of indispensable friends of agriculture and human comfort. In 1868, when the fashion of using birds as hat ornaments was at its height, the American Ornithologists' Union organized a committee in this city to protect bird life. Its primary object was to prevent the destruction of birds and to collect facts and statistics bearing on the wholesale slaughter that was then going on. Shortly after this the Audubon Society was formed and worked in co-operation with the Ornithologists' Union. Its purpose was to discourage the buying and wearing for ornamental purposes of the feathers of any wild bird and to otherwise further the protection of native birds. Soon thirty thousand people joined the ranks of the Audubon Society and the Ornithologists' Union had members in every leading city throughout the country. Then began a royal battle and woman's heart vanquished the vanity. The influence of these two associations was such that birds and feathers of all kinds, except ostrich plumes, which are obtained without injury to the birds, became a drug on the market. The Audubon Society thought that its mission had been fulfilled. It was no longer the fashion to perch a flock of swallows or a tern on one's hat. So the society gradually disorganized. The Ornithologists' Union had other work to do than interfering with the wearing of birds, and today it is in a flourishing condition, with a membership of about six hundred. A member of the union, when asked if any action would be take to challenge the revived fashion said:

"Yes, a successful attempt is being made now to reorganize the Audubon Society, which did such effective work along this line several years ago, and the union always gives its hearty co-operation to all persons or societies which may be interested in the protection of birds."

Several years ago when the fad of wearing birds and feathers on hats came into vogue the tern or sea swallow and the egret were more used than any other species. Then the terns, beautiful, graceful birds, animated our coast. Indeed they seemed a part of the shore. But the women declared that they must have them on their bonnets, and as a result, from Maryland to Maine, there are now only two or three colonies of these birds left and they are on uninhabited islets. One is on Little Gull Island, at the eastern end of Long Island, and contained three years ago about 1, 000 pairs of these birds. The milliners' agents got up an

expedition to go there, and the birds would probably have been exterminated by this tie if it had not been for the efforts of the Linhahhen Society and several others, which secured permission from the government to have the light keeper on the Island act as a gamekeeper. The societies raised money and paid him a salary and through his protection the birds have increased three-fold in two years, and an overflow colony has been established on Gardner's island. If this protection is continued wherever the birds establish themselves, we may have the terns back again.

Most of the states and territories have on their statute books laws for the protection of birds. Law of itself can be of little avail. So long as women demand birds for their hats or sanction the use of birds by milliners, the supply will come. Professional plume hunters will find it worthwhile to violate the law, and law does not reach many parts of the world where the destruction of bird life is greatest. One thing only will stop the killing. That is woman's influence. She has but to show disapprobation of the fashion and millions of bird lives will be preserved every year. There are many women who refuse to wear birds on their hats on the ground of humanity. They are comparatively few in number, however, and not a great deal can be expected from individuals in changing fashion's dictates. Concerted action is needed.

Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago have each an Audubon Society and New York is not likely to be behind the times. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has 1,000 members and is doing better work just now than ever before. A fashionable milliner in New York, who has been in the habit of going to Boston each season with a supply of hats had a hard lesson last year. As usual, she went over and put up at a swell hotel with her creations. The women came and looked at the but refused to buy saying that they would not wear a hat or bonnet decorated with any kind of plumage except that from the domesticated birds and the ostrich. The milliner became interested in the society joined it, and now she won't sell a hat with birds or aigrettes on it. She went to Boston this year with hats decorated otherwise and did a thriving business. The societies in Chicago and Philadelphia re doing what they can to protect bird life, and their work is not in vain. They say that similar societies in other cities are much needed as nothing but combined effort will make it possible to stay the course of fashion.

Men who know about birds say that if women only realized the economic losses that this fashion entails they would one and all resolve never to use another bird skin for decorative purposes. An ornithologist has said:

"It is estimated that birds save to agricultural purposes alone, annually over \$100,000,000 in the United States. In many sections insect life is still so abundant as to make human life almost unendurable. In other sections, it is only kept in check by birds, and there is no place in which, were this check removed, it would not greatly hold the balance of power. From daylight until dark, all through the summer months, birds wage incessant war on the enemies of man."

This would not perhaps appeal to women half so quickly as the saying, "A garden without flowers, childhood without laughter, and orchard without blossoms, a sky without color, roses without perfume are the analogies of a country without song birds." And the United States are going straight into that desert condition.

Source:

The Wheeling daily intelligencer. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 21 Dec.1896. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. Of Congress.<[http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026844/..](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026844/)>

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source B

He Made A Fortune In Feathers

HE MADE A FORTUNE IN FEATHERS

HUNTING EGRETS IS HIS VOCATION.

David L. Bennett Supplies Plumes to Bon Ton Milliners.

HAS MADE A FORTUNE AT IT.

Highest Degree of Skill and Artifice Necessary to Bring the Birds Within Range—Soon Be Extirminated.

THE most famous hunter for egrets in the world lives among the orange trees in the San Gabriel valley. He is David L. Bennett. Go anywhere among millinery feather expert buyers the world over and you will find how well Bennett and his egrets from Central America and Mexico are known. Bennett egret plumes are often quoted specially in the millinery trade journals of Paris and New York. Mr. Bennett makes an industry of egret hunting and of selling egret feathers and plumes, and by it he has made a fortune in twenty-five years.

He comes up the Pacific coast from his hunting expedition twice a year. He marries his egret products, rests at his beach-woods and then goes down the coast for another season of hunting. Sometimes he gets, during five or six months, feathers and plumes that he sells for \$1,000 and even \$2,000. He says that he became a professional egret hunter by accident. Having always loved a gun, he went hunting while he was silver mining along the coast of Yucatan, during the winter of 1874. One day he brought to camp several beautiful specimens of herons or bitterns. He carefully packed away a box of the finest feathers plucked from the birds' carcasses. When he went home to New Orleans his sisters were delighted with his gift of the feathers. A local milliner saw the Bennett girls' new plumes, and he wanted to buy the lot for \$25. That set Mr. Bennett to thinking. He knew where he could get hundreds more lots of similar feathers.

"I contracted with a wholesale milliner to furnish him egret plumes for a year," said Mr. Bennett, in relating his experiences to the San Francisco Call, "and then I set out for Yucatan. Of course, my business is that of a common pothunting shooter. I don't apologize for it, but I do put as much sportsmanship in my work as possible.

"The first two years I was hunting down in Yucatan and Honduras I cleared, over and above my expenses and my living, \$4,000, but that was when there was no one who competed with me in egret hunting, except a lot of lazy, stupid, drunken natives of Central America, and there were thousands of egrets more in those days than now. On some days I used to get as many as twenty egrets or herons, and I have never found any occupation so profitable as getting thirty or so egrets a week, at about \$4 each for their plumes and feathers.

"Where do I hunt now? On the west coast of Mexico, near Tepic and Sinaloa. I hunted for fifteen years in every part of Central America, and I had the natives work for me at times, so we made the birds mighty scarce down there before we got through. I began hunting down in the Gulf of California, and later in the bays and lagoons on the Pacific ocean side of Mexico in 1888, and I believe there's enough birds in that region to keep me busy as long as I care to stay by the egret-hunting business. But everywhere in the regions I have been and have ever heard about a rapidly growing scarcity of egrets is evident. I am sure that in a dozen years or more, if the fashion in women's millinery prevails as now, there will be very few egrets left on the west coast of the whole Western continent. I have talked with men who used to hunt egrets and herons in the marsh lands and bays of Peru, the United States of Colombia and Ecuador for the Paris and other European markets, and they tell me that the birds have been so thoroughly wiped out down that way that it is a loss of time and money to try to get a living by hunting egrets and herons. A millinery feather-buyer from Paris who came down to the city of Mexico last January told me that he will never come out this way any more to buy feathers, for there were so few good plumes to be had that it was a losing proposition for him. He said that his firm in Paris was going to turn its attention to seeking its ornamental feather supply in Africa, but that it was by no means certain that it could get egret plumes in that part of the world. The house he was with in Paris used to buy \$28,000 worth of egret feathers in Mexico, Central America and Peru every year. So you can see how the business on this continent has diminished.

Control -Left click on image to open larger image in a new tab.

Click on link below to open full original article.

The Seattle post-intelligencer. (Seattle, Wash. Terr. [Wash.]), 11 March 1900. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045604..>>

Slaughter of the Innocents

The Duchess of Roxburghe, formerly May Goelt, of New York, has a hat decorated with 200 egret feathers. The hat was bought in London for \$500.

These feathers are found in finest quality on mother herons on the nest, and the thoughtless cruelty of woman practically means the extinction of one of the prettiest of all birds.

The dealer who sold the Roxburghe hat said that it made him ashamed to think that his sales of egrets meant the death of "many thousands of young birds by starvation," but that he had to sell the feathers to live and to keep in business.

Women are credited with being tender hearted, still they are barbaric in their hardness when it comes to fashions.

There is never a thought of the mother bird dead beside the nest, and fashion now decrees that hats shall be covered with egrets.—Exchange.

* * *

Control-Left click to view larger image in new tab. Click on link below to see original article.

The Ocala banner. (Ocala, Marion County, Fla.), 12 Nov.

1909. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Library of Congress.

[http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88074815/..](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88074815/)

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source D

Head and shoulders of model wearing "Chanticleer" hat of bird feathers



(ca. 1912) *Head and shoulders of model wearing "Chanticleer" hat of bird feathers.* , ca. 1912. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2005691560/>.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source E

Biggest Thing About This New "Paris Creation" is the Price Tag.

BIGGEST THING ABOUT THIS NEW "PARIS CREATION" IS THE PRICE TAG



Every year in June and July Paris sends out hats trimmed heavily with feathers. They are worn only over here by those who dress for extreme fashion, however.

The one pictured was worn by a well-known society woman in Paris the other day. It was of dark tobacco brown hemp, with quantities of white cross aigrettes on it.

The day book. (Chicago, Ill.), 06 June 1914. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487..>

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source F

The Woman Behind the Gun



Ross, G. (1911) The woman behind the gun / Gordon Ross. , 1911. N.Y.: Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, Puck Building.
[Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011648990/>.

Supporting Question 2

Supporting Question	What methods of persuasion were used by Harriet Hemenway, Minna Hall and other women to protect the birds.
Formative Performance Task	Write a paragraph describing the persuasive techniques used in the grassroots efforts to protect the birds.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source A: How Two Women Ended the Deadly Feather Trade ● Source B: Protection for the Birds ● Source C: Women Move in the Work of Stopping Revival of a Cruel Fashion ● Source D: Suffrage Cartoon ● Source E: Roosevelt, friend of the birds.
Additional Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCIM-C_Student_Worksheet.docx (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/6/b/b/d/151/6bbd765b1536fb67160770565a8475c45006e8d5.docx) ● SuffrageCartoonStudentWorksheet.docx (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/a/c/3/9/151/ac3909f825830015e416f71bdedb39fe38240479.docx) ● Analyzing_Motion_Pictures.pdf (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/b/f/d/5/151/bfd5828e09494cd053e6dae554c3f87e887c763d.pdf)

This question gets to the heart of the grassroots campaign staged by Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall. It is asking students to identify ways used by these two women to change the minds and habits of women who wore hats decorated with plumage from migratory birds. The question will lead students to consider what we can learn from Harriet and Minna? What techniques can we borrow from their campaign to effect change today?

Formative Performance Task

Sources A, B and C are all text based. Source A is a secondary source written by William Souder for the Smithsonian Magazine. Have students complete a close read of this article highlighting the persuasive techniques mentioned. Next, have students analyze B and C using the SCIM- C strategy worksheets included in the additional materials below. These two newspaper articles will support students as they corroborate the information they found in the Souder article. SCIM-C is an analysis model that walks students through summarizing, contextualizing, inferring, monitoring and corroboration. You may read a detailed explanation of SCIM- C here: <http://www.historicalinquiry.com/#part2>.

Source D, *Suffrage Cartoon* is a political cartoon that illustrates the persuasive techniques used by cartoonist. We use it here because those same visual techniques of labeling, exaggeration, symbolism, irony and analogy can also be found in written journalism. The Library of Congress Cartoon student worksheet may be downloaded from the list of Additional Materials below.

Source E is a silent film document of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt in his role as preservationist. Have students use the Library of Congress Analysis Tool for Motion Pictures to observe and reflect on the persuasive use of high profile public figures to effect change in public opinion.

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source A

How Two Women Ended the Deadly Feather Trade

Excerpt

By William Souder

Smithsonian Magazine

March 2013

John James Audubon, the pre-eminent 19th-century painter of birds, considered the snowy egret to be one of America's surpassingly beautiful species. The egret, he noted, was also abundant. "I have visited some of their breeding grounds," Audubon wrote, "where several hundred pairs were to be seen, and several nests were placed on the branches of the same bush, so low at times that I could easily see into them."

Audubon insisted that birds were so plentiful in North America that no depredation—whether hunting, the encroachment of cities and farmlands, or any other act of man—could extinguish a species. Yet little more than half a century after Audubon's death in 1851, the last passenger pigeon—a species once numbering in the billions—was living out its days in the Cincinnati Zoo, to be replaced shortly thereafter by a final handful of Carolina parakeets, also soon to die in captivity.

The snowy egret—and its slightly larger cousin, the great egret—were similarly imperiled by the late 1800s, when fashionable women began wearing hats adorned with feathers, wings and even entire taxidermied birds. The egrets' brilliant white plumage, especially the gossamer wisps of feather that became more prominent during mating season, was in high demand among milliners. (A snowy egret specimen from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's ornithology collections, above, documents the bird's showy splendor.)

The plume trade was a sordid business. Hunters killed and skinned the mature birds, leaving orphaned hatchlings to starve or be eaten by crows. "It was a common thing for a rookery of several hundred birds to be attacked by the plume hunters, and in two or three days utterly destroyed," wrote William Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological Society and formerly chief taxidermist at the Smithsonian.

The main drivers of the plume trade were millinery centers in New York and London. Hornaday, who described London as "the Mecca of the feather killers of the world," calculated that in a single nine-month period the London market had consumed feathers from nearly 130,000 egrets. And egrets were not the only species under threat. In 1886, it was estimated, 50 North American species were being slaughtered for their feathers.

Egrets and other wading birds were being decimated until two crusading Boston socialites, Harriet Hemenway and her cousin, Minna Hall, set off a revolt. Their boycott of the trade would culminate in formation of the National Audubon Society and passage of the Weeks-McLean Law, also known as the Migratory Bird Act, by Congress on March 4, 1913. The law, a landmark in American conservation history, outlawed market hunting and forbade interstate transport of birds.

Harriet Lawrence Hemenway and her husband Augustus, a philanthropist who was heir to a shipping fortune, lived in a tony section of Back Bay. Hemenway, a Boston Brahmin but also something of an iconoclast (she once invited Booker T. Washington as a houseguest when Boston hotels refused him), would live to 102. A passionate amateur naturalist, she was known for setting out on birding expeditions wearing unthinkably unfashionable white sneakers.

In 1896, after Hemenway read an article describing the plume trade, she enlisted the help of Hall. The cousins consulted the Blue Book, Boston's social register, and launched a series of tea parties at which they urged their friends to stop wearing feathered hats. "We sent out circulars," Hall later recalled, "asking the women to join a society for the protection of birds, especially the egret. Some women joined and some who preferred to wear feathers would not join." Buoyed by their success—some 900 women joined this upper-crust boycott—Hemenway and Hall that same year organized the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Audubon societies formed in more than a dozen states; their federation would eventually be called the National Audubon Society.

In 1900, Congress passed the Lacey Act, which prohibited transport across state lines of birds taken in violation of state laws. But the law, poorly enforced, did little to slow the commerce in feathers. Getting in the way of the plume trade could be dangerous. In 1905, in an incident that generated national outrage, a warden in south Florida, Guy M. Bradley, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a plume hunter—who was subsequently acquitted by a sympathetic jury. The watershed moment arrived in 1913, when the Weeks-McLean Law, sponsored by Massachusetts Representative John Weeks and Connecticut Senator George McLean, effectively ended the plume trade.

In 1920, after a series of inconclusive court challenges to Weeks-McLean, the Supreme Court upheld a subsequent piece of legislation, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, writing for the majority, declared that the protection of birds was in the "national interest

Source:

Souder, W. (2013, March 01). How Two Women Ended the Deadly Feather Trade. Smithsonian Magazine. Retrieved February 23, 2019, from <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-..>

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source B

Protection for the Birds

<http://bit.ly/BirdsNewsArticle>



PROTECTION FOR BIRDS.

Massachusetts has somewhat the reputation of being a breeding ground for "isms," but many good movements have originated there. Among these, in a small way, may be classed a movement for the protection of birds. The Massachusetts Audubon Society is the name of an organization which has for its object the protection of wild birds against the ravages of fashion. When it is considered that the reigning style in ladies' hat trimming requires the killing of hundreds of thousands of birds every season while it lasts, one can imagine the extent to which the slaughter of the innocents goes on. A fairly good imitation wing or feather could be made, but fashion requires the genuine article, and as only birds can furnish these wings, these are the sufferers. The consequence is that some of the beautiful birds are already nearly exterminated. The Massachusetts Audubon Society proposes to do what it can to discourage the wearing of the feathers of every wild bird for purposes of ornamentation. The society was formed in March last, and now has a membership of nearly 800, including many prominent women of fashion, teachers and others. Each person who joins the society takes a pledge not to purchase or encourage the use of feathers of wild birds for ornamentation. A circular issued by the society says:

Page 1 of excerpt

Control-Left Click to open a larger image in a new tab.

Click on link below to view original full article.

The Indianapolis journal. (Indianapolis [Ind.]), 14 June 1896. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015679..>>

THE SUNDAY JOURNAL.

INDIANAPOLIS, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 14, 1896—TWENTY PAGES.

p.12 col 4

We would make an appeal to all lovers of nature, since, by this reckless demand of fashion the woods and fields are being stripped of one of their chief attractions, and the country deprived of indispensable friends to agriculture.

The use of the aigrette so commonly worn, which is obtained from the egret or snowy heron, is a marked instance of the evil we would restrain before it is too late. These plumes are almost invariably taken from the parent bird while it is hatching or rearing its young, and the whole family is therefore usually destroyed.

Chapman, in his "Birds of Eastern North America," says of the snowy heron: "The curse of beauty has numbered the days of this, the most dainty and graceful of herons. Twenty years ago it was abundant in the South. Now it is the rarest of its family. The delicate aigrettes which it donned as its nuptial dress were its death warrant. Woman demanded from the bird its wedding plumes and man supplied the demand. The Florida herons have gone, and now he is pursuing the helpless birds to the uttermost parts of the earth. Mercilessly they are shot down at their roosts or nesting-grounds, the coveted feathers are stripped from their backs, the carcasses are left to rot, while the young in the nest above are starving."

To lessen the demand is the most effective method of staying the evil, and it is earnestly hoped that all intelligent and humane people will join the society.

A similar society among the women of every State could do much towards educating the female public sentiment against so destructive a fashion. Anyhow, the Massachusetts women who have started the movement show they have the courage of their convictions.

Page 2 of excerpt

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Transcript of both Page 1 and 2 of this excerpt

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The Indianapolis journal. (Indianapolis [Ind.]), 14 June 1896. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015679..>>

WOMEN MOVE

In the Work of Stopping Revival
of a Cruel Fashion.

THE AUDOBON SOCIETY AGAIN

To Kill Forever the Style that Causes the Ruthless Slaughter of Birds to Supply Trimmings for Hats and Bonnets—If Gentle Woman Only Knew that Birds Are Skinned Alive to Supply Aigrettes, &c., the Sight of Such an Ornament Would Horrify Her—The Birds Save Our Agricultural Interests \$100,000,000 a Year, and Their Sacrifice to Fashion May Mean a Famine in the Future.

New York Sun: If a certain bill recently introduced at Albany becomes a law, the aspect of women's hats and bonnets will undergo a decided change. Once more the rage for decorating millinery with stuffed birds, wings, feathers, and aigrettes has laid hold of womankind. Every bird lover hoped and sincerely believed that the crusade against this custom several years ago had killed it forever. But here it is again, apparently more deeply rooted than ever before, and there is nothing

left for bird lovers to do but to go to work and secure legislation and create a sentiment against the slaughtering of myriads of innocent songsters.

They are doing it too. Some Brooklyn women set the ball in motion. The bill to stop the traffic in birds, already referred to, was introduced by Assemblyman Abell, but it is the result of the personal efforts of a Brooklyn woman, who was an enthusiastic worker in the cause of the Audubon Society as long as it existed. Through her energy an appeal with more than a hundred signatures has been forwarded to Albany in support of this bill. Among the signers are authors and poets, doctors, a minister of the Gospel, and men and women of high social standing in the community. The appeal is as follows:

This is page 1 of 3 for this newspaper article excerpt

Click on the link below to see the full article

The Wheeling daily intelligencer. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 24 March 1897. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026844..>>

Active Work.

"It gives me great pleasure to add that there is now organized in this city an Audubon Society of the State of New York, the circulars of which will soon be ready for distribution. This society, through the kindness of M. K. Jesup, will work in co-operation with the American Museum of Natural History, and its meetings will be held there. To quote from the by-laws, the purpose of the society is to discourage the purchase or use of the feathers of any birds for ornamentation, except those of the ostrich and domesticated fowls. Members shall discourage the destruction of birds and their eggs, and do all in their power to protect them. Members shall use their influence to establish 'Bird Day' in the schools of the state of New York."

Mrs. Charlotte E. Meyer has been doing much in a quiet way in behalf of the birds. She has sent out 500 pamphlets, issued by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, on the destruction of birds. These have fallen into the hands of influential women for the most part. Mrs. Meyer lives at Montclair, but has been in the city during the winter. As soon as she returns home she expects to take steps toward organizing a New Jersey Audubon Society, for she says she is determined that her own state shall keep abreast with the times in this humane work.

"I don't know what to say about wo-

This is page 2 of 3 for this article excerpt.

Click on the link below to view the full original.

The Wheeling daily intelligencer. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 24 March 1897. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026844..>>

men who wear stuffed birds and aigrettes on their hats," she said. "Some of them err through ignorance; others through vanity that amounts to maliciousness. Not long ago one of my friends went into a millinery establishment to buy a hat. The saleswoman brought her a hat with a perfect tower of aigrettes on one side.

" 'Take it away,' she cried, horrified. 'Don't let me see a hat with aigrettes on it. I wouldn't wear one if you'd give me the finest in the store.'

"The shopgirl was amazed, and so were three customers who were going through the trying-on process.

" 'We are interested to know why you won't wear aigrettes,' finally one of the customers said, and then my friend explained to them that the aigrette was the wedding dress worn by both sexes of the snowy heron in nesting time. So that the loss of the old bird means the loss of the eggs, or more frequently the starving of the young. She told them just how these birds had been almost completely exterminated in the south and in other countries in the last twenty years, because women are fonder of decorating their hats and their hair with aigrettes than with anything else. They were astonished and said they'd never heard of such a thing and before she left them they all declared that they would never wear another stuffed bird or aigrette. They sinned through ignorance.

This is page 3 of 3 for this article excerpt.

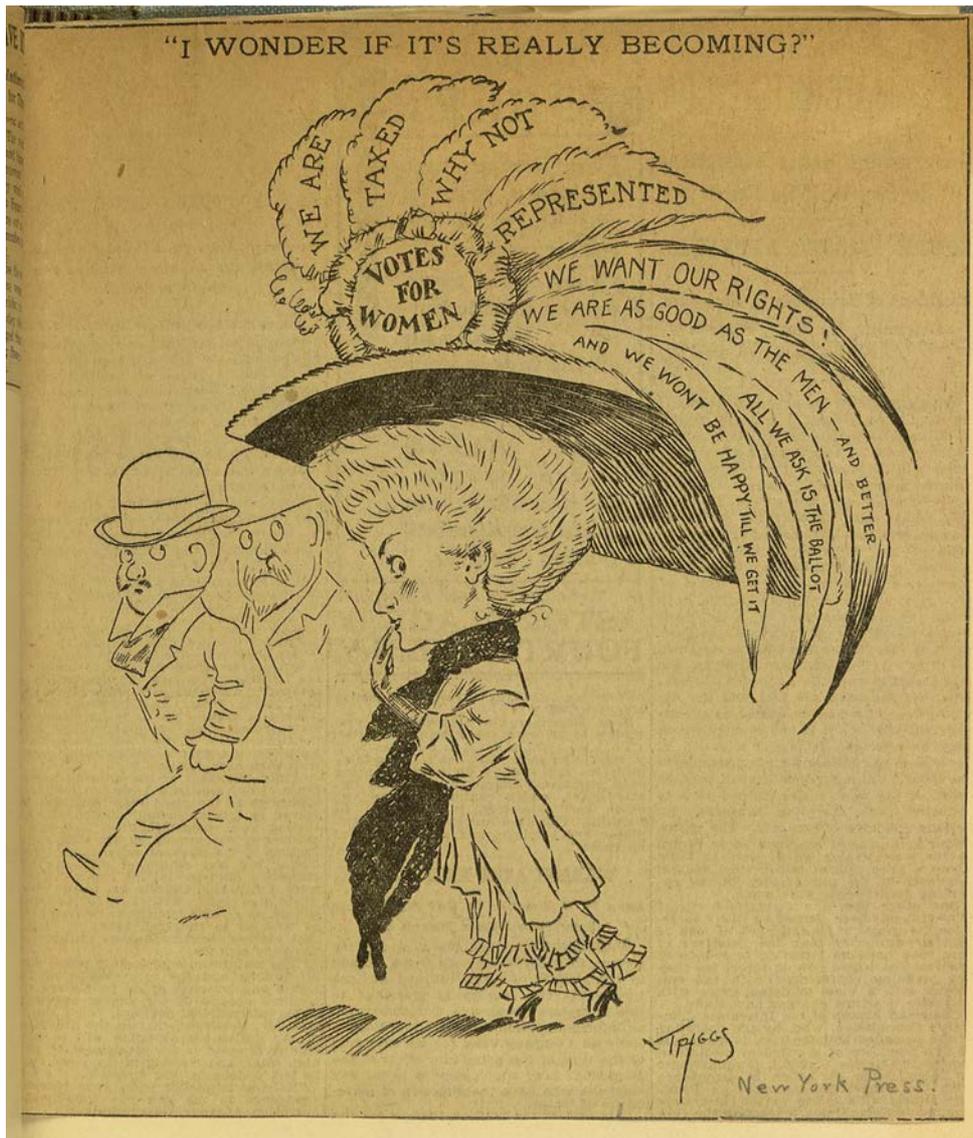
Click on the link below to view the original full article.

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Supporting Question 2

Featured Source D

Suffrage Cartoon



New York Press. *I wonder if it's really becoming?* Suffrage Cartoon United States, . New York Press, New York City, New York, n. d. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/rbcmiller001148/>.

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source E

Roosevelt, friend of the birds.

Excerpt

Summary of silent film (14:50 min)

A narrative of TR's role in bird preservation which includes factual footage taken on his visit under the auspices of the National Audubon Society to bird sanctuary islands off the coast of Louisiana, June 1915. Mating habits and domestic life of snowy egrets and their plunder by hunters are dramatized. Scenes of egrets' nest and the hunt, kill, and plucking of birds serve as the prologue to depiction of TR as bird preservationist. Views of TR and John M. Parker, leader of the Louisiana Progressive party, aboard the Audubon Society's boat, the Royal Tern; views of TR standing in marshes, with what is perhaps the Louisiana Conservation Commission yacht in background. Herbert K. Job, photographer for the expedition and noted ornithologist, appears on the beach with his camera; TR examines eggs and talks with other members of the expedition: a man who is probably J. Hippolyte Coquille, a local photographer; M. L. Alexander in light pants, president of the Louisiana Conservation Commission; John Parker, with his back to camera; and game warden William Sprinkle. Additional scenes of TR exploring island and observing birds along beach and views of a variety of shore birds including royal terns, black skimmers, laughing gulls, brown pelicans, blue herons, and egrets.

Source:

Roosevelt, T., Parker, J. M., Coquille, J. H., Alexander, M. L., Sprinkle, W., Roosevelt Memorial Association [...] Theodore Roosevelt Association Collection, Job, H. K., photographer. (1924) *Roosevelt, Friend of the Birds 1* [United States: Roosevelt Memorial Association Film Library, ?] [Video] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/mp76000356/>.

Supporting Question 3

Supporting Question	What protections did state and national laws provide for birds in the early 1900s?
Formative Performance Task	Compare and contrast the state and national regulations for migratory bird protection passed in 1912 and 1918.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Source A: Beginning of a New Industry: Sale of Wild Game Prohibited in Massachusetts● Source B: Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918● Source C: The History and Evolution of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Additional Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● SCIM-C Student Worksheet.docx (https://s3.amazonaws.com/idm-generator/u/6/b/b/d/151/6bbd765b1536fb67160770565a8475c45006e8d5.docx)

Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall started a grassroots movement to protect migratory birds in Massachusetts at the same time that other citizens were working toward that goal in other states. In Massachusetts, one of the earliest bird protection laws was passed. This question directs students to examine both state and local legislation that emerged from this grassroots effort.

Formative Performance Task

To gather evidence to use in writing this claim statement, students will use the attached SCIM-C worksheets to interpret one newspaper article, one congressional act and one current Audubon Society secondary source article.

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source A

Beginning of a New Industry: Sale of Wild Game Prohibited in Massachusetts

BENNINGTON EVENING BANNER

NINTH YEAR NO. 2583

BENNINGTON, VT., THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1912

PRICE ONE CEN

BEGINNING OF NEW INDUSTRY

Sale of Wild Game to be Prohibited in Massachusetts

The most important game legislation ever enacted in New England has now become law. The people of Massachusetts tired of legalizing the extermination of migratory game birds have now stopped it so far as that state is concerned. Formerly the game laws were so drawn that such birds were protected only when they were out of the state. In recent years, the shooting seasons have been shortened, so that the birds have some protection. A few years ago the sale of grouse and woodcock was stopped and now the sale of all game birds will be prohibited January 1, 1913.

The principal causes of the extinction of game birds are spring shooting and the sale of wild game, both of which have been eliminated from the Bay state. A determined, sustained and successful effort to prevent the repeal of the present law forbidding spring shooting was followed by a well organized and determined battle to stop the sale of game. The fight was led by the National Association of Audubon Societies, assisted by the Massachusetts Audubon society, the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association, practically every other Game Protective association in the state and many scientific societies, among which the Boston society of Natural History took a leading part. The Massachusetts State Grange, was very active and effective; Men's Clubs, Women's Clubs, professional men, and people in all walks of life, were at last aroused to save the birds and the people were successful.

All bills permitting spring shooting were defeated. The non-sale law was passed by large majorities and Governor Foss approved it. In thus following the lead of New York which passed a similar law last year, Massachusetts has closed another of the great northern markets, only a few of which are now open to the sale of wild game. This great movement extending from state to state, must soon result in the closing of all the great markets, for which at least, 50 per cent of our game birds are killed annually. In stopping the sale of game we eliminate the market hunter and save millions of game birds, shore birds and wildfowl from the annual slaughter, both north and south. This movement, however will not stop the sale of artificially propagated game in the market, but will encourage the raising of certain kinds of game on the farms of the country and the sale of hand-reared game in the markets under restrictions imposed by the commissioners on Fisheries and game.

The Bennington evening banner. (Bennington, Vt.), 23 May 1912. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95066012..>>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source B

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

Excerpt

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

[Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#) (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 3, 1918; 40 Stat. 755) as amended by: Chapter 634; June 20, 1936; 49 Stat. 1556; P.L. 86-732; September 8, 1960; 74 Stat. 866; P.L. 90-578; October 17, 1968; 82 Stat. 1118; P.L. 91-135; December 5, 1969; 83 Stat. 282; P.L. 93-300; June 1, 1974; 88 Stat. 190; P.L. 95-616; November 8, 1978; 92 Stat. 3111; P.L. 99-645; November 10, 1986; 100 Stat. 3590 and P.L. 105-312; October 30, 1998; 112 Stat. 2956

The original 1918 statute implemented the 1916 Convention between the U.S. and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia).

Specific provisions in the statute include:

- Establishment of a Federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." (16 U.S.C. 703)

This prohibition applies to birds included in the respective international conventions between the U.S. and Great Britain, the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Russia.

- Authority for the Secretary of the Interior to determine, periodically, when, consistent with the Conventions, "hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, or export of any . . . bird, or any part, nest or egg" could be undertaken and to adopt regulations for this purpose. These determinations are to be made based on "due regard to the zones of temperature and to the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times of migratory flight." (16 U.S.C. 704)
- A decree that domestic interstate and international transportation of migratory birds which are taken in violation of this law is unlawful, as well as importation of any migratory birds which are taken in violation of Canadian laws. (16 U.S.C. 705)
- Authority for Interior officials to enforce the provisions of this law, including seizure of birds illegally taken which can be forfeited to the U.S. and disposed of as directed by the courts. (16 U.S.C. 706)
- Establishment of fines for violation of this law, including misdemeanor charges. (16 U.S.C. 707)

Source:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Digest of Federal Resource Laws

<https://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/MIGTREA.HTML>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source C

The History and Evolution of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Excerpt

The History and Evolution of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The law has already saved billions of birds' lives. Here's how it's accomplished so much in its 100-year history.

By [Jesse Greenspan](#)

May 22, 2015

Passed a century ago, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the harming of just about [all native birds](#), along with their nests and eggs. To this day it remains the primary tool for protecting non-endangered species. As threats to birds [continue](#) to evolve, so does the law itself.

Here's a look back at some of the key moments in the law's evolution to date.

1800s: With essentially zero regulations in place, market hunters decimate U.S. bird populations, in part so that well-to-do women can wear hats adorned with ornamental feathers. By the end of the century, Labrador Ducks and Great Auks are extinct, soon to be joined by Passenger Pigeons, Carolina Parakeets, and Heath Hens. Numerous other species stand on the brink. Outrage over these alarming trends leads to the formation of the first Audubon societies, as well as other conservation groups. **1900:** Congress passes the Lacey Act, the first federal law to protect wildlife. It takes aim at market hunters by prohibiting them from selling poached game across state lines. **1913:** Congress passes the Weeks-McLean Migratory Bird Act, which, in another broadside against market hunters, bans the spring shooting of migratory game and insectivorous birds and declares them to be under the "custody and protection" of the federal government. However, two district courts soon rule the act unconstitutional. **1916:** The United States signs a treaty with Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada, then part of the British Empire), in which the two countries [agree](#) to stop all hunting of insectivorous birds and to establish specific hunting seasons for game birds. The stated goal is to preserve those species considered beneficial or harmless to man. **1918:** To implement the new treaty, Congress passes the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which officially makes it a crime to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill," or "sell" a migratory bird or any of its parts, including nests, eggs, and feathers. The newly passed act eliminates "the necessity of watching the legislation of every state and of combating the numberless attempts to legalize the destruction of birds for private gain," according to famed ornithologist Frank M. Chapman (also the founder of Audubon magazine). **1920:** The U.S. Supreme Court shoots down a challenge to the constitutionality of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ruling that it does not violate states' rights.

Source:

Greenspan, Jesse. (2015). The history and evolution of the migratory bird act. Retrieved on Feb 24, 2018 from

<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-history-and-evolu..>

Summative Performance Task

Compelling Question	How Did Birds Gain Political Protection?
Argument	How did birds gain political protection? Write an argument to answer this question consisting of a series of claims with supporting evidence that draws from all three formative tasks and shows how the laws passed in the early 1900s reflected the goals of the grassroots campaign started in the late 1800s by Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall.
Extension	Create a political advertisement or cartoon that might have been used to convince people to stop using breeding feathers from birds. It can be in the form of a poster, flyer, a town-crier type announcement, a chart or a graph.

Argument

This final task requires students to connect the information they have found in multiple sources and make original interpretive statements backed by historical evidence.

Extension

Following the approach used by Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall, students extend their argument by creating a political advertisement or drawing a cartoon that depicts the claims they made in their argument. Students could also use other graphical approaches including diagrams and charts or write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper.

Taking Informed Action	
Understand	Interview people about their consumer choices not to purchase something because it may cause harm to someone or something.
Assess	Consider how you could inform others of the harmful effects of buying certain consumer products.
Action	Create a poster, flyer, or written announcement to convince others to stop buying a particular product that has harmed someone or something.

In this Taking Informed Action task, students will Interview family members and neighborhood adults to find out if anyone has ever consciously made a consumer choice not to purchase something because it may cause harm to someone or something. After completing the interviews, will assess the issue by considering how you could inform others of the harmful effects of buying certain consumer products. The action step of this task is for students to create a poster, flyer, or written announcement that could be used to convince your schoolmates or neighborhood civic council to stop buying a particular product that has harmed someone or something.

