

# Life in the air



## Creative flights of fancy

Flying birds, buzzing insects, colourful rainbows: the air offers a habitat for a multitude of creatures, provides a setting for enthralling natural spectacles and is indispensable for us humans. Under the motto "Let's discover nature – in the air", children will explore the air in all its facets for World Kids Colouring Day on 6 May. The little ones will capture their observations in creative images.



### Feathery diversity

A research team at the University of New South Wales has calculated that there are around 50 billion birds worldwide. The house sparrow, the ring beak gull, the starling and the barn swallow are particularly common species.

### Fresh air

According to experts, children should spend at least an hour a day in the fresh air as this strengthens their body's defences and their immune system. In other words, go out into the open, take a deep breath and discover the natural wonders that the air has to offer.

### Fata Morgana

We can't normally see air. But at extreme temperatures it lets us see things that aren't really there: the heat in the desert creates mirages – this is how Fata Morganas, which for example fool people into believing there is a waterhole in the sand, are created.



This year's World Kids Colouring Day encourages children to explore the air as a habitat.



### Air providers

Plants breathe through small pores on the underneath of their leaves – and, through photosynthesis, produce oxygen that humans benefit from. Rainforests provide the most oxygen thanks to the abundance of trees and plants.

### Fair weather cloud

Clouds have a reputation for rain. Cumulus clouds prove otherwise. They generally form on days when the sun is heating up the ground. If the air is slightly damp, masses of air rise and then cool down at lofty heights and become a cloud.



### Teddy bears of the air

Are bees very hard-working insects? Of course, but a furry relative gives them a run for their money: bumblebees collect about 12 times more nectar than honey bees. They buzz around for 18 hours a day to around 1,000 different flowers.

