

Bird Adaptations

Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay by Narelle Oliver

Food and tool labels

Small noodles (e.g. bowtie), spaghetti noodles, marshmallows, dried beans or seeds

Small log with holes drilled in it

Red food dye

Confetti

Big bowl with water, small bowl with water

Clothespins, skewers, strainers, tweezers, pipets

Instructions:

1. Read *Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay* by Narelle Oliver.
 - a. Ask why students think the birds all won the contest. Birds have special beaks that eat different kinds of food.
 - b. Define adaptation (when birds have something special (e.g. beak design) that helps them survive).
2. Set out tools with sign that shows an image of each bird and what tool represents its beak. Set out food items with sign that shows images of what each item represents (e.g. confetti = algae).
3. Ask students to choose a bird and pick up the tool that represents its beak:

Bird	Tool
Cardinal	Clothespin
Hummingbirds	Pipets
Mallard	Strainers
Robin	Tweezers
Woodpecker	Skewers

4. Ask students what types of food they think their bird eats.
5. Tell students to try all the different types of food with their beak.
6. Ask the kids what foods were easiest for their bird to eat. Were there some birds that could eat more types of food than others? What birds were highly specialized (adapted) to only eat one kind of food (e.g. hummingbird)? Below is a table with the items these birds would usually eat:

Bird	Food
Cardinal	Seeds
Hummingbirds	Nectar
Mallard	Algae
Robin	Worms and Insects
Woodpecker	Larvae

7. Switch beaks.