



## Let's Learn About Beaks!

### Background:

Make sure students are familiar with how birds find food. This lesson will show students that some birds have an easier time getting food than others.

### Materials:

- Swedish Fish or gummy bears
- Cooked spaghetti noodles (“worms”)
- Sunflower seeds or bird seed
- Tweezers (beaks of seed eaters)
- Spoon (beaks of water birds)
- Chopsticks (saddle-bill stork)
- Bowls to put your “food” in
- Water
- Small cups

### Procedure:

1. Set up your food in bowls. Put water in the bowl with the Swedish Fish/gummy bears.
2. Put each type of beak by each bowl of food. Students will try each beak at the different bowls to determine which one is the easiest for each type of food.
3. Give each student a small cup. This is their “stomach”. When they pick up their food, they are to put it in their cup, but they can only pick up one at a time. For example, if a student is picking up seeds, they may only pick up one seed at a time. That is all their stomach can carry.
4. Explain the different types of beaks to the students. After, have the students create and record a hypothesis about which beak is best for which food.
5. Have the students pick which beak they wish to test first, second, and third. Then, have them test each beak with each food. Have students record which food was the easiest to pick up with each beak.
6. When every student tested every beak/food, it is time to discuss as a group. Call on each student and have them tell you which beak was the easiest to pick up each food. Record these using tally marks.
7. Ask students why certain beaks were better than others. Why do birds have different shaped beaks?
8. Have students record their conclusions.

### Next Generation Science Standards Used:



## **Let's Learn About Beaks!**

1-LS1-1: Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.