

Which Bird? Which Food?

Grade Level: K - 2

Science Concept: Bird beaks are modified in numerous ways - length, shape, and size - to adapt them for obtaining different types of food.

Materials: (per group of two children)

- 2 spring clothespins
- 2 Popsicle or craft sticks
- straw
- white glue

Procedures: (Steps 1 - 5 may be done ahead of time)

1. Cut straw in half.
2. Cut off 1/3 of each Popsicle stick.
3. Glue two long pieces of Popsicle stick to insides of each half of one clothespin so that sticks open to resemble a bird's beak when clothespin is depressed.
4. Repeat Step 3 with two short pieces of Popsicle stick and the other clothespin.
5. Allow glue to dry.

Focus: (one or more of these)

1. read a book that has birds and feeding habits as part of the story: Feathers for Lunch
3. Set up a feeder outside. Have children observe birds.

Explore:

Pass out the materials and allow children to manipulate and explore.

Reflect

Questions: (variety of levels from simple recall to analysis)

1. What happened to the straw picked up by the long beak?
2. What happened to the straw picked up by the short beak?

Apply:

Questions: (variety of levels from simple recall to analysis)

3. How does this affect the kind of food the bird eats?
4. What kind of food do you think each bird might eat?
5. In what kind of habitat would you expect to find each kind of food?
6. Name some birds with each type of beak.