

### **Bird Beak Adaptations (3-5)**

There is an amazing amount of variety among birds, especially in the way their beaks are shaped and what their beaks are used for.

#### **Materials**

Eyedropper  
Serrated knife (such as a steak knife)  
Kitchen strainer or colander  
Tweezers  
Icepick  
Nutcracker  
Ladle

#### **Procedure**

Read the following statements aloud to the class.

Allow students to decide which item or tool matches the structure of the bird's beak with its function.

1. A parrot uses an incredibly strong beak to crack through nutshells.
2. The edge of a toucan's beak is jagged to help it slice through the tough skin of the fruit it eats.
3. A pigeon uses its small beak to pick up tiny seeds.
4. A hummingbird uses its long beak to reach into flowers for nectar.
5. A flamingo eats tiny shrimp-like organisms that live in the water.
6. A woodpecker taps through tree bark to get at grubs and insects living inside and to hollow out holes in which it lives.
7. A pelican dives into the water and scoops fish into its large, pouch-like beak.

#### **Observations/ Questions for Discussion**

Which items go with which bird beaks?

Why do birds have beaks that are shaped differently?

What would happen if all bird beaks were the same?

Think of some other birds and come up with other human objects that match the bird beaks.