








Play bird beak lab


Educator Notes

Age				
Early Years	4-7	8-12	12-15	16+
				

Time				
> 10 mins	> 30 mins	> 60 mins	> 2 hours	Long term
				

Season				
All year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
				

Curriculum Links	
Expressive Arts	
Health & Wellbeing	
Literacy & English	
Mathematics	
Sciences	
Social Studies	
Technologies	

Location		
Indoors	Outdoors	Either
		

Equipment list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Bird beaks’ – items such as spoons, straws, tweezers, clothes pegs • Different sizes of ‘bird food’ - raisins, rice, pasta.. • Timer • Printed activity sheet and scissors (optional)

Instructions

You can adapt this activity in different ways (also depending on group size), making it more relaxed and experimental, or more of an active game...

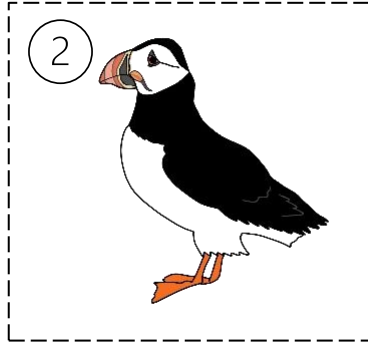
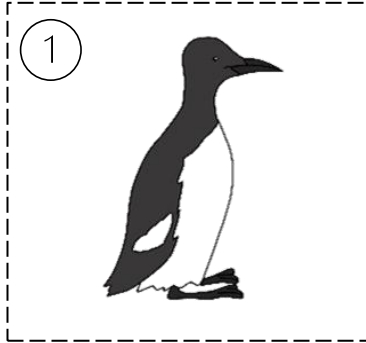
1. Collect the different types of ‘bird food’ you want to use. It’s good to have a range of shapes and sizes that can represent different types of food, such as fish or insects. Using the different ‘bird beaks’ you can experiment being different birds.
2. First, put one type of food in the middle of the group, whilst everyone has different types of beaks. Set 30 seconds on a timer and see how much food each beak can collect in that time. Swap the food in the middle and repeat.
3. Prompt the children to imagine what ways the fish and insects could change to make it harder for the birds to catch them! As you go through the different foods, are there some ‘beaks’ that are better than others for picking up certain foods? Which ones were the best and which ones struggled? Isn’t it clever that birds’ beaks are suited to their favourite foods!
4. Afterwards, you could complete the bird beak lab activity sheet (next page).



Bird Beak Lab – Activity sheet

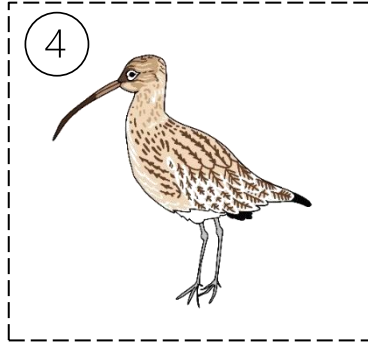
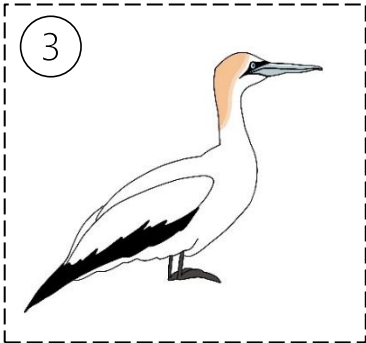
Instructions!

1. Carefully cut out each bird and bird name separately.
2. Match each bird to its correct species name.
3. Now group your birds into those with short beaks and those with long beaks.



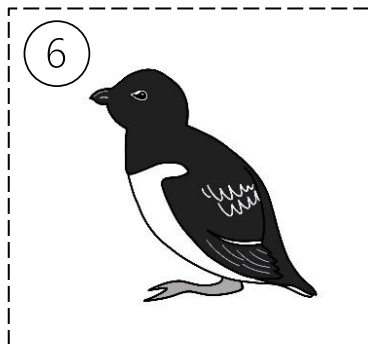
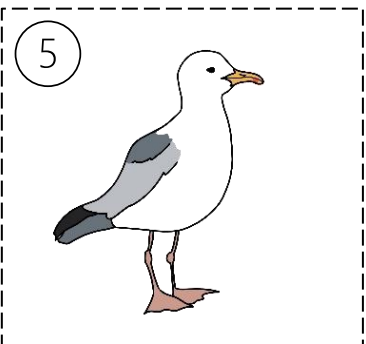
Short beaks - useful for catching fish and small creatures like insects and plankton

Long beaks - help pin down fish and dig in the sand



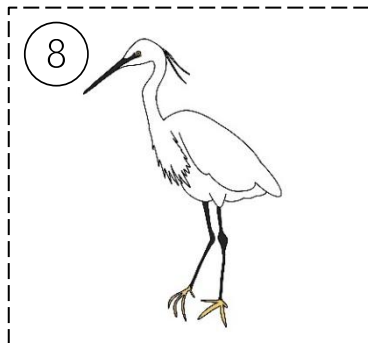
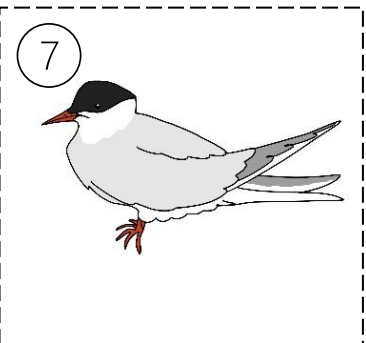
Little
Egret

Guillemot



Little Auk

Curlew



Puffin

Herring
Gull

Arctic
Tern

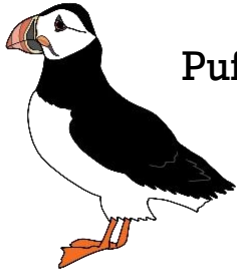
Gannet

Bird Beak Lab – Answer sheet

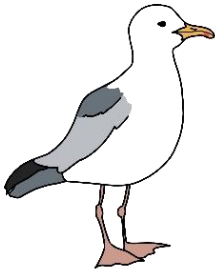
Short beaks



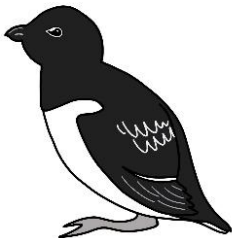
Guillemot



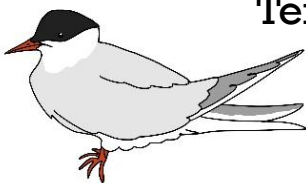
Puffin



Herring Gull



Little Auk



Arctic Tern

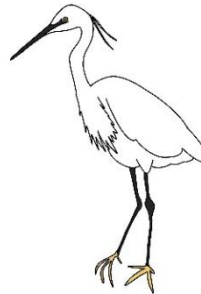
Long beaks



Gannet



Curlew



Little Egret