

Snap Science Lesson: Do Birds Have Teeth?

LIFE SCIENCES

Get curious

Video/ Slide show

Watch a film.

What do hummingbirds eat?

How do they eat? What do their beaks look like?

Do all birds drink nectar?

Get going

Observing

Invite students to come to the tables where bird food has been set out before the lesson. Tell them about foods that are good for birds.



You can find details of how to prepare the classroom and how to place bird food on tables at the end of the lesson plan in the Get Ready section (the "Bird canteen" button).

Discuss what kinds of food are edible for birds and which aren't. How do birds get food? How do they fish food out of water, pick it out of tree bark, etc.?



Movement game

Time to take on the role of birds. How would you "handle" food if you couldn't use your hands, but had beaks instead? Try!

Students will try to collect food using tools that simulate beaks, thanks to which they will find out that you can't collect every type of food with every type of beak, and they will learn how many different types of beaks birds can have – depending on what they eat.



Conclusions

Students look at the "nests" to which they have carried food and match the corresponding species of birds to the tools they have used. They should justify their choices.

The purpose of this task is to learn about food collecting mechanisms using different tools (beaks). Show photos of birds and talk with each team, asking questions such as:

What types of food did you collect with your tool? Why these types in particular?

Which bird has a beak with a similar shape to your tool?

What in its structure makes it easy to collect food?

Could this beak collect various types of food?

Do birds need teeth? Do birds have teeth?

Conclusions

Discuss the significance of the diversity of birds' beaks.

You can ask auxiliary questions: is it good that birds have such diverse beaks? What does it give them? What would happen if they didn't?

Get practicing

Observing

The students observe birds in their own neighborhood. They look for information on one selected species. What does this bird eat and what does its beak look like?

The students try to observe the habits of their chosen bird, take note of what it eats and how it uses its beak. They broaden their knowledge by looking for information in books and on the internet. They can take a photo of the bird or make a drawing of it. At the next lesson the students share their observations – talk about the species of birds they chose.
