

# 3rd Grade Activity: Bird Beak Game

*Animals have many amazing adaptations that help them survive.*

*(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas 3-LS3.B – Variation of Traits; 3-LS4.C – Adaptation)*

## Pre-Activity Questions

- What is an adaptation?
- Do all birds have the same beak shape?
- Do all birds eat the same food?

## Activity

- Bird beaks come in all shapes and sizes! The purpose of the bird's beak is to help it get food to eat. Do all birds eat the same food? No! The bald eagle eats fish and other meat, the woodpecker eats bugs, parrots eat fruits and nuts, and the sparrows and finches eat seeds. Some birds eat a variety of foods based on what is available, such as jays and crows. The different beak shapes of these birds allow them to eat different kinds of foods.
- Let's explore how different birds get their food. First, make a "beak" with your index finger and thumb. What can you pick up with your "beak"?

## Bird Beak Game

**Materials for bird beaks, 1 per child (choose 3, based on what is in your house)**

- Spoon
- Plastic knife
- Handheld tea strainer
- Chopsticks
- Clothespin
- Tongs

**Materials for food, 3-5 per child (choose 3, based on what is in your house)**

- Pennies
- Dry beans
- Dry pasta (any shape)
- Marbles or decorative pebbles
- Rubber bands
- Paper balls (grape-sized)
- Paper clips

### Steps for Single Child

1. Place the **“food” items** at one end of a clean surface.
2. At the other end, use **masking tape** or string to mark the start zone.
3. Select a **“beak”** and go to the start zone. When the signal is given (“go” or “start”), use the beak to gather as much food as possible, and bring it back to the start.
  - a. No fingers allowed!
  - b. Challenge: get one item at a time
4. Stop collecting after 30 seconds. Using the chart below, write down how much of each food item you were able to collect.
5. Return all food items and select a new beak.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 until all beaks have been tried.

**Note:** For multiple children, make the game a race or use two different beaks at the same time to see which is best at collecting which food.



Beak materials



Food materials



Using the beak to get food

### Record your results:

	Beak 1: _____	Beak 2: _____	Beak 3: _____
Food 1: _____			
Food 2: _____			
Food 3: _____			

## Post-Activity Questions and Resources

- Which beak type was able to get the most of all food items?
- Was there a beak type that was really good at getting one type of food item? What was it?
- Was there a beak type that was not good at getting any of the food items? What food item do you think it would be good at picking up?
- For more information, check out this [video](#) about bird beaks!
- Challenge: what do you notice about [Condor 550's beak?](#) What kind of food do Condors eat?