

In this activity, students will observe how different beak types are suited to different environments.

OVERVIEW

Topic: Adaptation

Real-World Science Topics:

- An exploration of how changes (adaptations) occur in a group (population)

Objective

Students will gain an understanding of how the features of a species become adapted to a particular place (environment).

Materials Needed for Student Activity

“Food”

- gummy worms or rubber bands
- gummy or Swedish fish (placed in a large bowl of water)
- dry rice, lentils, sunflower seeds, or birdseed
- raisins or tiny marshmallows
- coffee stirrers or thin straws

“Beaks”

- spoons
- tweezers
- small binder clips
- tongs

Plates/large bowls for “food” stations

Teacher Notes

Use your discretion on the best way to conduct this activity based on the individual level of your class. For some of the younger K-1 classes, you may wish to perform some or all of the steps of the activity, encouraging children to make predictions and observations. If the group is older or more advanced in their abilities, students can take a more hands-on role in performing the related tasks. Leveled methodologies for K-1 and 2-3 grade levels are provided, where appropriate, throughout the activity. Use your knowledge of each class to determine what the best option is for your particular group.

Teacher Preparation

Set up several stations around the classroom with different “food” types. Each station represents a different “environment.” Stations should be arranged so there is equal access to the food for four students at a time.

