

WHAT A BEAK

This lesson is from Frank Schaffer Science Notes "Animal Adaptations"

Objective:

- Students will identify and describe adaptations that make certain plants and animals suitable for living in a particular ecosystem.
- Students will utilize the scientific process to make logical conclusions about animal adaptations:

Standards: (From the 5th grade standards/curriculum)

- 4.6.7.A, B, C
- 4.7.7.A, B
- 1.2.5.A

Teacher Resource: Frank Schaffer Science Notes "Animal Adaptations"

Materials Needed:

Lab sheets (see attached)	5 nutcrackers
5 crochet hooks	5 tweezers
5 sponges	5 walnuts
5 cotton balls	

Preparation:

- Set up 5 labs in the classroom
- Each lab should have the following: 1 nutcracker, 1 crochet hook, 1 tweezers, 1 sponge, 1 walnut, and 1 cotton ball

Activity:

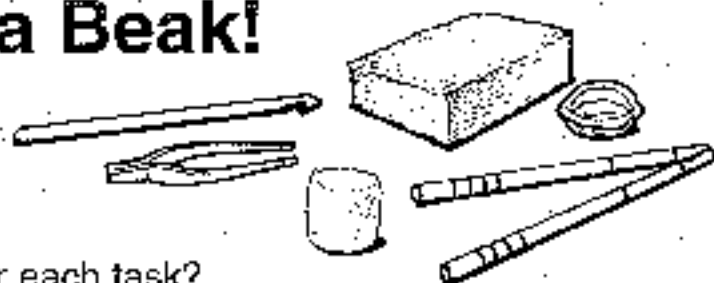
- Review some of the bird posters that students made from last week.
- Discuss several adaptations on each bird.
- Discuss the importance of adaptations on birds.
- Explain to the students that today they will complete an exploratory activity on birds.
- Pass out the "What a Beak!" lab sheet and go over the directions with the class.
- Break the class up into lab groups – 5 labs should be set up in the classroom.
- Students will use the materials at the lab to complete the exploratory activity and the "What a Beak!" lab sheet.
- Give the class about 25 minutes to complete this activity.

Conclusion:

- Discuss the exploratory activity with the class.
- Review and go over each group's predictions, results, and conclusions from the lab sheet. Compare and Contrast answers!
- As an evaluation of student comprehension, the teacher will grade the lab sheets.

What a Beak!

Question: How are birds' beaks adapted to the foods they eat?



Predictions: Which tool will work best for each task?

catching a cotton ball

cracking a walnut

tearing a sponge

Results: Which tool worked best for each task? Explain.

catching the cotton ball _____

cracking the walnut _____

tearing a chunk of the sponge _____

Conclusions: Birds' beaks are specially adapted to help the birds eat their food. Different species of birds have different beaks.

What beak characteristics would the following birds need?

a bird that eats insects _____

a bird that cracks nuts _____

a bird that tears meat _____

Label each bird pictured as an insect eater, a nut eater, or a meat eater.



If you saw an unfamiliar bird, how could you predict the type of food it eats?
