

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key question	What are the differences between birds?	
Session description	Observe ducks, geese and swans to discover how they're suited to a wetland environment. Investigate adaptations from webbed feet to oiled feathers. Which features will you spot and how do they help birds to survive in this particular habitat?	
Key Stage suitability	KS1	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS1 Science - Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets). - Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited. - Describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals. - Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.		
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...	
	- Be able to name three types of feathers. - Be able to identify and explain at least two adaptations that enable wetland birds to survive in their environment. - Be able to describe what a wetland is and give examples of wetland habitats	- Be able name three types of feathers and describe their uses. - Be able to suggest what type of food a bird eats from its beak or body shape. - Be able to identify and explain at least three adaptations that enable wetland birds to survive in their environment.	
Key vocabulary	Wetland Habitat Wildfowl Duck Swan Goose Adaptation Beak/Bill	Grazing Diving Up-ending Dabbling Prey Predator Hooked Filter/Sieve	Diet Flight feather Contour feather Down Feather Preen Waterproof Quill Webbed

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question. They consider the question whilst observing the birds on Pelican cove and share their observations with the rest of the group. The differences we see help birds live in their homes.	
Activity 1: Birds, beaks and feeding techniques	15 mins
Learners mime eating their favourite foods, considering what utensils they use.	

Learners are encouraged to study the birds on pelican cove- observing their beaks and feeding styles. They share their findings in pairs. Learners are divided into four groups. Each group is given a model of bird's head with a tool for a beak. They consider what food each bird eats and share with the rest of the group.	
Activity 2: Wings and Feathers	15 mins
In the Discovery hide, the class is divided into 4 groups. Each group observes a real bird wing and considers how many different types of feathers there are and the job of each. Groups share their predictions.	
Activity 3: Feet	15 mins
At Coastal Creek, our walk-through aviary, learners are encouraged to look at the feet, legs and bodies of the waders and diving birds.	
Plenary	5 mins
We revisit the key question and consider the importance of wetlands to the creatures that live there.	