

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key question	How are different birds adapted to their habitat?	
Session description	Observe ducks, geese and swans up close and explore their similarities and differences. Discover how they have evolved special features to help them live in a particular habitat. Investigate adaptations from webbed feet to oiled feathers. Which features will you spot?	
Key Stage suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science - Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. - Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. - Identify how animals are suited to their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.		
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 Adaptation Evolved/Evolution Carnivore	Herbivore Omnivore Up-ending Dabbling Grazing Diving	Quill Flight feather Contour feather Down Feather Preen Waterproof

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question. They consider this question whilst observing the birds on Pelican cove, sharing their observations with the rest of the group. Through their observations, learners are introduced to the concept of adaptation.	
Activity 1: Birds, beaks and feeding techniques	15 mins
Learners mime eating their favourite foods, considering what utensils they use. They 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 group.	
Activity 2: Wings and Feathers	15 mins

In our Discovery hide, the class is divided into four groups. Each group observes a real bird wing and consider 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 in this exhibit. They share their observations as group.	
Plenary	5 mins
We revisit the key question and consider the importance of wetlands to the creatures that live there.	