

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key Q	How do birds live in wetlands?	
Session description	Observe ducks, geese and swans to discover how they're suited to a wetland environment. Investigate their adaptations for feeding. Which features will you spot and how do they help birds to survive in this particular habitat?	
Key Stage suitability	KS1	
Duration	60 minutes	

Curriculum links	KS1 Science Year 1 Animals, including humans - Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals - Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets). Year 2 Living things and their habitats - Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other - Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food Animals, including humans - Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)	
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners
	Will be able to describe at least two bird adaptations Will be able to identify an adaptation on a live bird Will be able to describe what a wetland is and give examples of wetland habitats	Will be able to identify three ways birds have of acquiring food; pecking, dabbling and diving Will be able to identify potential threats to wetland birds in context of climate change
Key vocabulary	Adaptations Anatomical Behavioural	Specialisations Characteristics Preening Specimens

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the session and the key question.	
Activity 1: Investigating specimens	25 mins
Learners explore different wetland bird adaptations, investigating five different stations looking at feathers, bones, beaks, feet and waterproofing (through preening).	

Activity 2: Sharing observations	5 mins
Each group shares their main findings, explaining how each adaptation helps birds to live in their habitat.	
Activity 3: Observing adaptations in live birds	20 mins
Learners observe and feed birds in the living collection to see different adaptations and how these enable the birds to live in the wetland.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners share their main findings.	