

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key Q	How do birds live in wetlands?	
Session description	Observe ducks, geese and swans to discover how they have evolved specific features to suit 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	KS2	
Duration	60 minutes	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science Year 4 Living things and their habitats - Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. - Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.	
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 live collection to see different adaptations and how these enable the birds to live in the wetland.	
Plenary	5 mins