


Session title	Birds, beaks and feeding techniques	
Key question	How are birds adapted to find and eat different foods?	
Session description	Explore how different birds have evolved adaptations for varying diets and ways of feeding. Observe and record how birds feed, from diving ducks and grazing geese to the filtering beaks of flamingos. What does each bird eat? Are they predators or prey?	
Key Stage	KS2	
Duration	60 min	

Curriculum links	<p>Lower KS2 Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify that animals need the right types of nutrition and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. <p>Upper KS2 Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences. 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	All learners	More able learners
	<p>Will be able to identify three bird feeding behaviours</p> <p>Will be able to name birds which feed in different ways</p>	<p>Will be able to explain how a birds' structure helps it to find and eat its food</p> <p>Will be able to explain how a birds' behaviour allows it to find and eat its food</p>
Key vocabulary	Structure, behaviour, diet, grazing, dabbling, filtering, up-ending, serrated, sieve, prey, predator, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, nutrition.	

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are given a brief intro to WWT Martin Mere and are introduced to the key question: How are birds adapted to find and eat different foods?	
Activity 1: Beaks and eats game	5
Whole class game: 'Beaks & eats!' The children have individual bird cards (three species) and a choice of corners occupied by adults with different food/habitat cards. They go to the corner showing the appropriate food or habitat. 'What feature helped you decide what you eat?'	
Activity 2: Observing and recording	30
Learners view six flashcards of bird feeding behaviours (diving, dabbling, grazing, spearing, sieving, up-ending) before setting off with their guide. In the waterfowl gardens, learners (in pairs) find and observe examples of each feeding behaviour. They complete the observation recording sheet 'How do birds get their food?' noting any relevant bird body structures.	
Activity 3: Plenary: Birds and behaviours game and questions.	15
Learners play the 'birds & behaviours' game. The children are given one species card (from ten bird species) and choose which of the five feeding behaviours their bird uses, moving to the corner with the adult holding the relevant choice.	