

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key Q	How are wetland birds adapted to their habitat?	
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	1 hour	

Curriculum links	Lower KS2 Science: - Identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. - Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. Upper KS2 Science: - Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals. - Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. - Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	- be able to identify and name a variety of common wetland birds. - be able to closely observe, investigate and compare adaptations.	- be able to group wetland birds in a variety of ways. - be able to describe, using scientific vocabulary, how wildfowl are adapted to living in a wetland.
Key vocabulary	Adaptations Similarities Differences	Beak Waterproof Wildfowl Webbed Habitat or home

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	3 mins
Learners are introduced to the wetlands and to the key question – How are wetland birds adapted to their habitat?	
Activity 1: Feed the birds and observe	10 mins
Learners feed the birds in small groups, observing the birds and their feeding behaviour. They chat in their groups about what they have seen or noticed.	
Activity 2: Investigation work	30 mins
Learners carry out hands on investigations on a variety of themes e.g. feeding, moving, keeping warm etc.	
Activity 3: Feedback and summarise	5 mins
Each group shares the most interesting fact learnt or new discovery made from their investigative work.	
Plenary	5 mins

Learners answer the key question and are encouraged to think about what else they might spot during their time at the centre.

