

# **Activity guide:**

## **Introduction:**

Bird beaks are multi-functional tools. Birds use them to weave nests, defend their territory, attack competitors, groom feathers, communicate, and most significantly, to gather or capture food.

All animals are adapted to their environment in unique ways. A very important adaptation for food gathering in birds is the size and shape of the beak.

## **Materials List:**

- Suggested Food Resources:

uncooked shell macaroni, goldfish crackers, beads.

- Beaks:

Spoon, Plastic Pinchers/ Cardboard pinchers paper plate for feeding dish (1 per group); small cup for stomach (1 per student), whistle/bell to signal change of feeding.

### **Instructions:**

- 1. Distribute one type of "beak" (utensil) to each student, instructing them to hold it in one hand and place the other hand behind their back.**
- 2. Place a "stomach" (cup) in front of each student. Place one type of food in each group's feeding area (plate) and instruct students that, at your signal, they must compete for as much of that food resource as they can gather with their "beaks".**
- 3. Give the signal, then allow each group 5-10 seconds to "feed". All food must go into their "stomach" (cups)! After 10 seconds, give the signal to stop.**
- 4. Have the students tell which beak was most successful in gathering that type of food. Repeat the procedure for each type of food available.**