

# BIRD EXPLORATION:

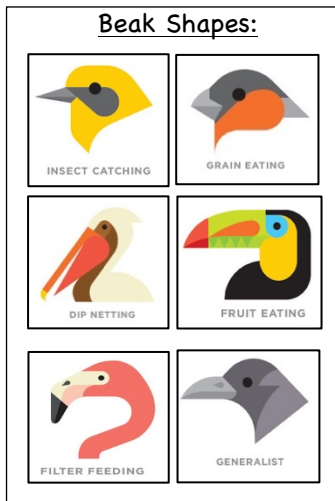
## 3-5 Instruction Guide

This activity focuses on animals that love to eat insects: Birds! You have probably seen (and heard) many birds around your neighborhood. With this page, you'll be learning about what birds like to eat and how their beaks are a big part of that. Then you can head outside to do some bird watching!

Birds have **beaks**. Beaks are used to build nests, make sounds, and gather food. You can tell a lot about a bird just by looking at its beak. Some beaks are long and skinny for grabbing insects.

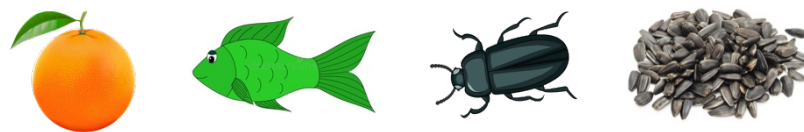
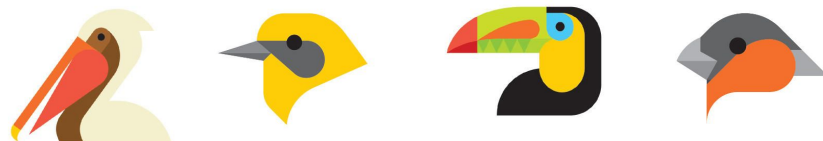
Others are wide like a net to grab fish. And some are sharp and cone shaped, perfect for breaking seeds. Take a look at the pictures to the right. Try to imagine each of these birds eating and think about how the shape of their beak would help them. Now imagine them eating a different type of food - maybe a pelican using that huge beak to try and eat a tiny insect - that wouldn't work very well at all!

Birds are important animals in nature! They help control insect populations, spread seeds, and pollinate flowers. If you've never stopped to watch a bird, you're in for a real treat. The other half of your worksheet will help you learn about the different behaviors you might see as you become an **ornithologist** (that's a person who studies birds) in your neighborhood!



# BIRD EXPLORATION 3-5

Draw a line matching the bird to the type of food it eats. Look back at your instruction sheet if you need help.



As you explore your neighborhood, keep an eye out for the following bird behaviors. Circle any you observe.



*Eating*



*Flying*



*Flocking*  
(Birds grouped together)



*Singing*



*Alarm Calling*  
(Making a warning noise)



*Foraging*  
(Looking for food)

What behavior was the most common? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would birds flock together? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of food would a bird in your neighborhood eat?

\_\_\_\_\_



Fold this sheet in half along the dotted line, grab a pencil, and head outside for some bird watching!



How many different types of birds can you find in your neighborhood?