Different Beaks, Different Jobs

by Christian Burnham

Genre: Nonfiction
Build Background: 
- Birds
- Animal Parts
- Animal Survival
Access Content: 
- Captions and Labels
- Questions
Extend Language: 
- Compound Words

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Question of the Week
How do the structures of plants and animals help them solve problems?

Key Comprehension Skill
Main Idea and Details

Concept Words
beaks  use  survive
tools  cover  peck

In this book, I will learn:
• Birds have different beaks.
• Birds use their beaks as tools to get food.
Birds have beaks. There are many different beaks. Some are short and thick. Some are long and skinny. Why are there so many different beaks?

Birds have different beaks for different jobs. They use their beaks to survive.

Survive: to stay alive

Birds use their beaks as tools. They use their beaks to get food.

Robins live on farms and in cities. They have short beaks. Robins use their beaks to pull worms from the ground. Short beaks are also good for eating bugs and berries. Short beaks help robins survive where they live.

Tools: things you use to do jobs
Parrots live in the wild. They eat nuts and seeds. Hard shells cover the nuts and seeds. Parrots have thick beaks. Strong, thick beaks help them eat their food.

Parrots use their beaks as tools. First, they crack open nuts. Then they eat the nuts inside the hard shells. Their beaks are also good for eating fruit.

Hummingbirds are the smallest birds. They fly from flower to flower to get their food. Hummingbirds have long, skinny beaks. Hummingbirds use their beaks as tools. They use their beaks to get food from inside the flowers. Hummingbird beaks are like straws.

**cover**: to be over or on top of something
Woodpeckers live in the woods. They eat bugs that live in tree wood. So woodpeckers have sharp beaks. Their beaks are like nails. First, they peck the wood with their beaks. Then they eat the bugs inside the holes.

**peck:** to move a beak back and forth to make a hole

Pelicans live around oceans and lakes. They eat fish. Pelicans have long beaks with large pockets. Pelicans use their beaks like nets. They open their beaks in the water. They catch fish in their beak pockets. Pelicans can also hold fish in their beaks.
Some birds eat other animals. They eat meat. An owl uses its beak to cut food into smaller pieces.

People also use tools to eat. What tools do you use to eat food?

Talk About It
1. How do birds use their beaks?
2. How are birds like people?

Write About It
3. Draw your favorite bird. Write a sentence that tells about how the bird uses its beak to get food.

Extend Language
Some words are made up of two other words. For example, nutcracker is made up of nut and cracker. Some of these words tell what the noun does. A nutcracker cracks nuts. What does a woodpecker do?