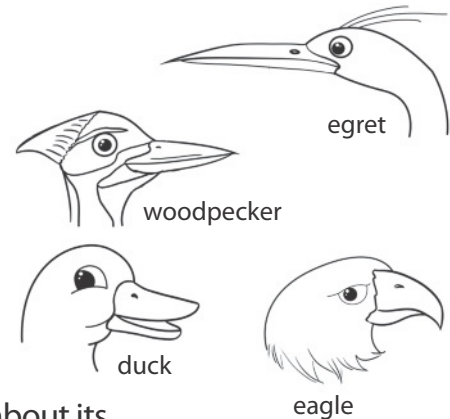


Battle of the Beaks

Did You Know? A bird uses its beak to pick up food. Most birds eat both plants and animals. Many ducks and geese have wide, flat beaks. These beaks sift food from the water. Eagles have beaks with a sharp curved point for tearing meat. While most woodpeckers eat insects, they eat other things too. Their beaks come in handy for cracking nuts!



A class wanted to know what the shape of a bird's beak tells about its diet. Students chose kitchen tools similar in shape to those of birds' beaks. Two teams of students had 3 minutes to use their tools to pick up food similar in shape or texture to what the birds might eat. The table shows the results.

	Puffed Rice (Water Plants)	Gummy Worms (Fish)	Nuts in Shell (Nuts)
Chopsticks (egret)	248	526	0
Nutcracker (woodpecker)	98	186	352
Slotted spatula (duck)	627	119	8

- 1** How many items did the teams pick up with the slotted spatula?

754 items

- 2** Why does the slotted spatula work best at picking up puffed rice?

Sample answer: It is similar to a duck's beak. Ducks have a beak that can collect food in water.

- 3 Extension** The table shows the total number of food items picked up by two teams using each tool. One team used chopsticks to pick up 99 pieces of puffed rice and 314 gummy worms. How many pieces of puffed rice and gummy worms did the other team pick up with chopsticks? Show your work.

149 pieces of puffed rice; 212 gummy worms; Check students' work.