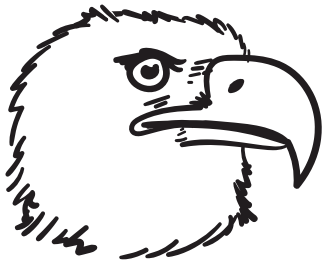




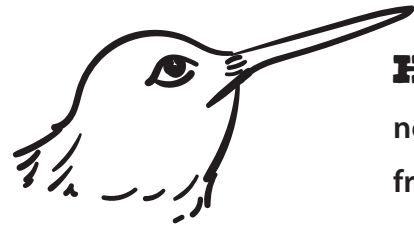
Get ready to soar as we explore birds! We will find out about different ways birds eat, discover what birds are living near us and make a nest.

What's for Dinner?

What do birds eat? Birds eat many different things including seeds, nuts, insects, nectar, fish and small animals. Different birds have different beak shapes. The shape is an adaptation that helps them eat certain types of food.



Birds of prey, like eagles and hawks, have curved, sharp beaks for eating meat. They eat rats, snakes, fish and other birds.



Hummingbirds have long, needle-like beaks. They eat nectar from flowers.



Robins have slender beaks for catching and eating insects.



Cardinals have thick, strong beaks for crushing seeds.

Let's Read



Find a comfortable spot and read about the weather! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- *DK Guide to Birds* by DK Publishing
- *Amazing Birds of Prey* by Jemima Parry-Jones
- *Backyard Birding for Kids* by Fran Lee
- *Birds Build Nests* by Elaine Pascoe
- *What's in That Egg?* by Rebecca Baines
- *Birds: Nature's Magnificent Flying Machines* by Caroline Arnold
- *Feathers* by Claire Clark

You can download digital copies of these books for free from openlibrary.org. Here is how!

1. Go to openlibrary.org.
2. Click the blue "sign up" button on the top right to create a free account. You will be sent a confirmation email.
3. Sign in.
4. Type the book title and author into the search bar.
5. Find your book and click the blue "borrow" button.
6. Don't forget to return your book when you are finished reading it!

Keep going!

Set up an online reading group with some of your friends. You can read the same book, then talk about what you learned, or you can read different books and share cool bird facts.

Before you start, you should have:

Bird beaks:

- A pair of tongs, chopsticks or tweezers
- A pair of pliers or use your thumb and index finger
- A straw or dropper
- Scissors or plastic knife

Bird food:

- String, yarn or noodles (worms)
- ½ cup water (nectar)
- Sunflower seeds or peanuts in the shell (seeds)
- Playdough or mix 1 cup water, 1 1/3 cups flour and 1/2 cup salt (meat)
- 4 bowls or cups

Get started:

- 1.** Put each of the “bird foods” in separate bowls or cups.
- 2.** Start with the “worms.” Use each of the bird beaks one at a time to try and pick up the worms. Which beak picked up the worms the best?
- 3.** Use each of the bird beaks one at a time to try and pick up the “nectar.” Which beak sucked up the nectar the best?
- 4.** Use each of the bird beaks one at a time to try and crack open the “seeds.” Which beak cracked the seeds open the best?
- 5.** Use each of the bird beaks one at a time to try and slice through the “meat.” Which beak sliced through the meat the best?
- 6.** Tell a partner what you discovered!

Keep going:

Make a simple bird feeder at home and watch what types of birds stop by for a snack:

Find a pinecone or an empty toilet paper roll. Cover it with peanut butter and spread birdseed on it.

Hang it on a tree or somewhere that is high off the ground.

More information on bird beaks:



http://www.fernbank.edu/Birding/bird_beaks.htm



<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/birds/types-beak/>



<http://projectbeak.org/adaptations/beaks.htm>

Cradles in the Trees

Why do birds build nests? Just like other animals, birds need a place to rest, find shelter and seek protection from predators, especially when they are caring for their babies. They often do this by building nests in trees, on the ground, on cliffs and on buildings. Birds make their nests out of a variety of materials including sticks, grasses, mud, feathers, fur, leaves, stones, and even items from humans like string or foil. What kind of nest would you make?

Before you start, you should have:

- A disposable plate or bowl
- Recycled material from around your house (paper strips, tissue paper, yarn, string, cloth, etc.)
- Scissors
- Crayons, paint or markers
- Optional: Natural items such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings and small stones from the ground outside. Be careful not to pull anything from a living plant.
- Optional: Playdough (to make your own, mix 1 cup water, 1 1/3 cups flour and 1/2 cup salt)

Get started:

1. Decorate the plate or bowl with crayons, paint or markers. It can be as colorful as you want!
2. Cut or tear the recycled materials into long, thin strips.
3. Weave your strips together to make a bowl shape.
4. Add painted stones, playdough, or ball up paper for eggs.
5. Share your creation with a partner!

Keep going!

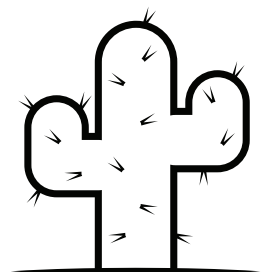
You can see birds in their nests with the Cornell Laboratories live bird cams:



<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/american-kestrels/>



<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/barred-owls/>



More information on bird nests



<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/birds/birds-nests/>



<https://nestwatch.org/learn/how-to-nestwatch/identifying-nests-and-eggs/>

Bird Basics

What do birds need to survive? Just like all animals, birds need food, water and shelter to survive, but they don't all get these things from the same places.

Different birds eat different foods like insects, nuts, seeds, fruit, flower nectar and meat to help them survive. Most birds also need to drink water to survive and some get it from their food. They can find water in puddles, streams, ponds and lakes. Birds can find shelter and make nests in trees, buildings, bushes and on the ground. Head outside to see what kinds of things you can find that would help a bird to survive!

Before you start, you should have:

- A place outside where you can hear or see birds and find the things they need to survive.
- Optional: Paper and pencil

Get started:

- 1.** Take a walk around your house, neighborhood or a natural area.
- 2.** Look for different birds flying in the air, perching on houses or in trees, or moving on the ground.
- 3.** Listen for birds chirping and singing. Try to see if you can spot the bird making the noises.
- 4.** See if you can find different things that birds may need to survive!
 - Food: Find three kinds of food that a bird might eat. Examples: flowers (nectar), seeds, nuts, rabbits or insects.
Can you see any birds trying to find food?
 - Shelter: Find three different things a bird might use to make a nest. Examples: twigs, grasses, feathers, leaves, mud or moss.
Can you see any bird nests or places a bird might build a nest?
 - Water: Find a place where birds could get water. Examples: puddles, ponds, birdbaths, creeks or streams
Can you see any birds near the water?
- 5.** Optional: Draw or write about what you see.

Keep going!

Draw a picture or make a collage of a good place for a bird to live. Remember all the things they need to survive.

Try to identify what birds you saw and read about what types of food they eat, nests they build and how they find water.

More information on what birds need to survive

 <https://ny.audubon.org/birds-0/bird-habitat-necessities>

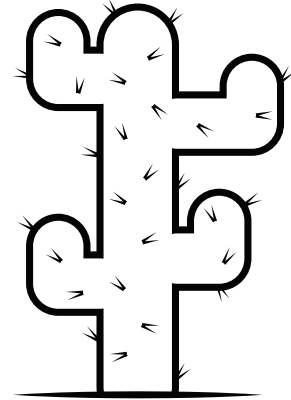
 <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-do-birds-survive-the-winter/>

Let's Play: Penguin Egg Dash

Penguins carry their eggs on their feet wherever they go! They do this to keep the egg safe and warm, while they walk around to keep themselves warm too. Walking with an egg on your feet isn't easy--Give it a try!

Before you start, you should have:

- A ball (soccer ball, basketball or smaller size)
- Space to move around, either in a large room or outside
- Optional: A partner



Get started:

1. Pick a starting point and a second point, at least 10 feet away.
2. Stand at the starting point and place the ball "egg" on your feet. (You may have to bend your toes up to balance it.)
3. Waddle to the second boundary, balancing the egg on your feet.
4. At the second boundary, turn around in a circle twice before returning to the starting point.
5. See how many times you can waddle back and forth before dropping the egg!
6. Optional: Challenge a partner to see who can balance the egg the longest without dropping it.

Keep going!

Check out Sam Noble Home's Movie Night: March of the Penguins for more penguin fun!



<https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/movie-night/>

Way to go Partner!

You've been deputized!

Carefully cut out your badge and wear it with pride!



Sam Noble Home



For more activities visit samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/samnoblehome