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## DIY ACTIVITY

# INVESTIGATE WHICH TYPE OF TOOL IS THE BEST FOR GRASPING SEEDS - GRADES 3-5

### OBJECTIVES

- Test model bird beaks to determine which type of beak is best adapted for different types of foods.

### PROCEDURE

1. Place each different type of seed in a pile on your workspace.
2. First try to pick up a peanut with the needle-nosed tweezers, then the medium-sized tweezers, and then the tongs. Which works best?
3. Repeat step two with the sunflower seeds. Which works best?
4. Repeat step two again with the sesame seeds. Which works best?
5. Which type of bird beak do you think each of these tools represents?

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Grilling or salad tongs
- Medium-sized tweezers
- Needle-nosed tweezers
- Peanuts still in shell
- Sunflower seeds still in the shell
- Sesame seeds

### WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

Different types of birds have adaptations to be able to eat certain types of food. Birds that eat large foods - such as small animals - have big, powerful beaks. The tongs represent the type of beak a hawk or eagle might have. These work the best to grasp the large peanuts in our demonstration. Birds that eat medium-sized seeds and nuts, such as sunflower seeds, have medium-sized beaks, like the tweezers. The medium-sized tweezers represent the type of beak a cardinal has. Some birds eat tiny seeds. The needle-nosed tweezers represent the type of a beak a bird like that might have.

### FURTHER EXPLORATION

What other types of foods and beaks can you model using different items and tools? How about a pelican beak and fish? Can you similarly model other types of animals and the adaptations they have to eat their food?

- ⚠ **Be mindful of peanut allergies (some schools do not allow peanuts). Also, some needle-nosed tweezers may have sharp points.**