



Adaptations and the Environment Activity for Kids

Seed Grasping Challenge DIY

 Duration: **30-60 min**

 Difficulty: **Easy**

 Cost: **\$0 to \$5**

Test different ways to grasp seeds, to model the adaptations of bird beaks!

Material List

- 1** Grilling or salad tongs
- 1** Medium-sized tweezers
- 1** Needle-nosed tweezers
- 1** Handful of peanuts still in the shell
- 1** Handful of sunflower seeds still in the shell
- 1** Handful of sesame seeds

Warning: If peanut allergies are a concern, replace with almonds, chocolate, or gummy bears.

Instructions

- 1** Place each different type of seed in a pile on your workspace.
- 2** First, try to pick up the peanuts with each of the different tools. Which one works best?
- 3** Repeat this for the sunflower seeds. Which works best?
- 4** Do it one more time for the sesame seeds. Which works best?
- 5** Which type of bird beak do you think each of these tools represents?

How It Works

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. This is represented by the tongs. Birds that eat medium-sized seeds, such as sunflower seeds, have medium-sized beaks, like the tweezers. Some birds eat tiny seeds, which are represented by the needle-nosed tweezers.