

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Does a Bird's Beak Tell You About Its Diet?

Eagle



Sparrow



Hummingbird



Kingfisher



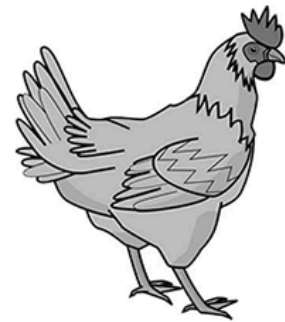
Owl



Heron



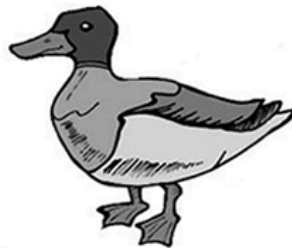
Chicken



Pelican



Duck



Woodpecker



Flamingo



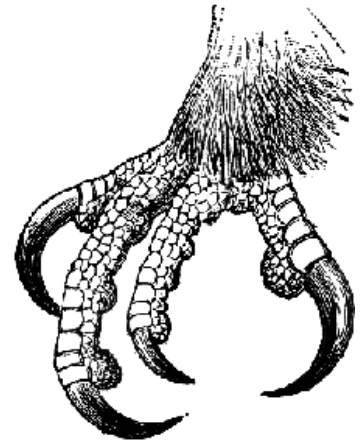
Bird	Type of Feet	Type of Beak	Probable Diet	Probable Habitat
Chicken				
Duck				
Eagle				
Sparrow				
Flamingo			<i>shrimp</i>	
Heron				
Kingfisher				
Owl				
Pelican				
Hummingbird				
Woodpecker				

Beaks Short and thick - seed cracking Long and thin, slightly curved - eating nectar Strong, chisel like - drilling Sharp, curved and pointed - tearing flesh Long and flattened - straining algae and plants Spear shaped - spearing fish	Feet 3 toes in front, 1 behind - perching 2 toes in front, 2 behind - climbing Powerful curved talons - grasping prey Webbed - swimming Long and thin - wading Thick and muscular - running
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Analysis

1. What features of a hummingbird make it adapted for its style of feeding?

2. Imagine an ideal flying predator. What type of beak and feet would it have?



3. Different birds may have similar beaks and diets. Loons, herons, kingfishers, for instance, all have long sharp pointed beaks for spearing fish. Their feet, however, are quite different. Describe how the loon, heron, and kingfisher differ in the method by which they hunt for fish (using their feet to help you answer.)

4. Owls have large eyes that enable it to see well at night. Both the hawk and owl hunt similar things: small rodents or snakes. How do the hawk and owl avoid competing with each other?

5. In the two previous questions, you were asked to analyze how birds reduce competition with each other when they hunt similar prey and live in similar habitats. This idea among ecologists is known as the "**Competitive Exclusion Principle**" which suggests the no two species can occupy the same **NICHE**. Use your book or other resources to define the word: niche and provide examples from this activity of a bird's niche.