

# Auckland Zoo Education Pack

**ECE**



**Theme:  
Adaptations birds**

# Zoo Lesson plan

## Theme:

Early Childhood (ages 0-4) **BIRD ADAPTATIONS**

## What will I learn:

How birds have some unique features that help them to survive in their habitat.

### Inspire

Read along to find out more about native birds and their beaks during storytime with Phil from Auckland Zoo - [Whose beak is this?](#)

Learn about some of the amazing birds at Auckland Zoo and watch these videos:

- Find out about the clever Kea – [Meet our curious kea and bird keeper Devon!](#)
- See some bird training in action – [Macaw Training Session](#)
- Go on a tour of Auckland Zoo with Captain. Which animals did he visit? - [Cockatoo Captain takes a tour of Auckland Zoo](#)

### Create

Follow along with Sterling and draw your own Kiwi creation! - [Draw with me: Kiwi](#)

Look at photos of bird's nests online. What do you notice? What materials do you see? Head outside for a nature walk to collect things to make your own nest. Take a photo to share with us!

Birds have some fantastic dance moves which help their species succeed.

- Watch the wonderful birds of paradise in New Guinea - [Birds of Paradise Courtship Spectacle](#)
- Learn the flamingo dance moves and share your own funky flamingo dance using #createwithaucklandzoo - [Dance like a flamingo](#)

### Reflect

Birds play an important role in our ecosystem. Can you think of any ways in which birds are important in your life? What would be different if we had no birds in New Zealand?

Take a break and tap into one of your special adaptations, your 5 senses! - [Mindfulness Moment: 5 senses](#)

### Explore

Be a scientist and ask yourself: "**I see, I think, I wonder**" (resource attached).

Compare some human tools to bird beaks with **Brilliant Beaks** (resource attached). Next play our **Bird Beak-a-thon** (resource attached) with your whanau. Which beak is best?

Find all the words in this wordfind - [Birds of Auckland Zoo](#)

### Act

Head outside for 5 minutes and see what birds are around! Work with an adult or older sibling to do our bird survey – [Bird Survey](#)

What is something you and your whanau could do to help birds in your neighbourhood? Here are some ideas to start you off:

- Build a bird-feeder or a bird bath to encourage birds in your backyard – [Make a nectar feeder](#)
- Attach two bells on your cat's collar to help birds stay safe.

## Curriculum links:

All lessons include aspects of the main strands of Te Whāriki the early childhood curriculum  
WELLBEING | MANA ATUA, BELONGING | MANA WHENUA, CONTRIBUTION | MANA TANGATA, COMMUNICATION | MANA REO, EXPLORATION | MANA AOTŪROA

# I see, I think, I wonder..

Scientists love to observe the world around them, think about what they already know, and pose questions to explore!

Have a go using some of the photos of our animals at the zoo.



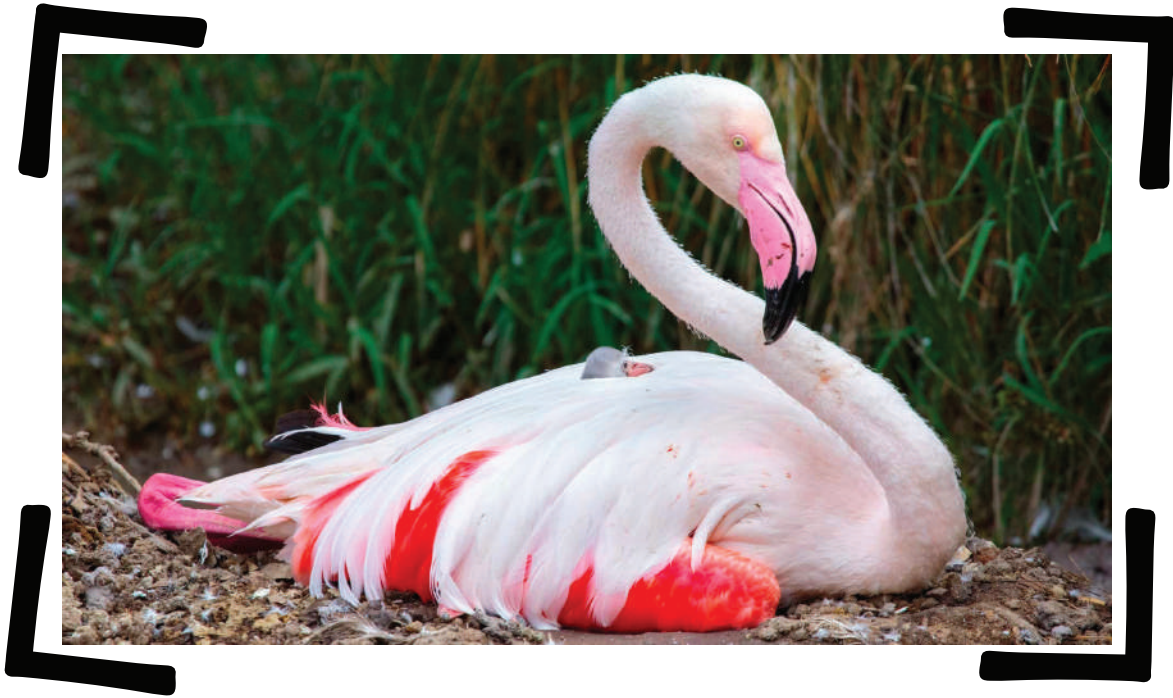
I see...	I think...	I wonder...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can you see in the photo?</li><li>• What behaviours are taking place?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you think is going on here?</li><li>• What do you know about Galah's or other birds already?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What questions do you have when you look at this photo?</li><li>• How could you find out more?</li></ul>

# I see, I think, I wonder..



I see...	I think...	I wonder...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can you see in the photo?</li><li>• What behaviours are taking place?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you think is going on here?</li><li>• What do you know about Cockatoos or other birds?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What questions do you have when you look at this photo?</li><li>• How could you find out more?</li></ul>

# I see, I think, I wonder..



I see...	I think...	I wonder...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can you see in the photo?</li><li>• How many animals can you spot?</li><li>• What behaviours are taking place?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you think is going on here?</li><li>• What do you know about flamingos already?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What questions do you have when you look at this photo?</li><li>• How could you find out more?</li></ul>

# I see, I think, I wonder..








I see...	I think...	I wonder...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can you see in the photo?</li><li>• How many animals can you spot?</li><li>• What behaviours are taking place?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you think is going on here?</li><li>• What do you know about kea already?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What questions do you have when you look at this photo?</li><li>• How could you find out more?</li></ul>

# ▶▶ Brilliant beaks!

Birds have amazing adaptations to help them survive in their habitats including beaks which are adapted to eating their different diets. Some of our tools are very similar!

## Your challenge

Match the bird beaks with the human tools using the descriptions as clues.

Bird and Description		Human tool
	<p><b>Flamingos</b> Eats shrimp using their beak to strain the shrimp from the water.</p>	<b>Nutcracker</b>
	<p><b>Macaw</b> Eats nuts and seeds, using their strong beak to crack them open.</p>	<b>Tongs</b>
	<p><b>Kea</b> A sharp, curved beak that can be used for a variety of things including digging and manipulating objects.</p>	<b>Chopsticks</b>
	<p><b>Kiwi</b> Use their long thin beaks to search for insects and grubs amongst the leaves on the forest floor.</p>	<b>Multi-tool</b>
	<p><b>Ostrich</b> Flat, broad beak for grasping at the roots, flowers, leaves and other things.</p>	<b>Sieve</b>

## Extra for experts

Create your own examples using some other birds with different kinds of beaks. Can you create your own beak challenge?

# ▶▶ Bird beak-a-thon ◀◀

**Birds have beaks that match their primary food source!**

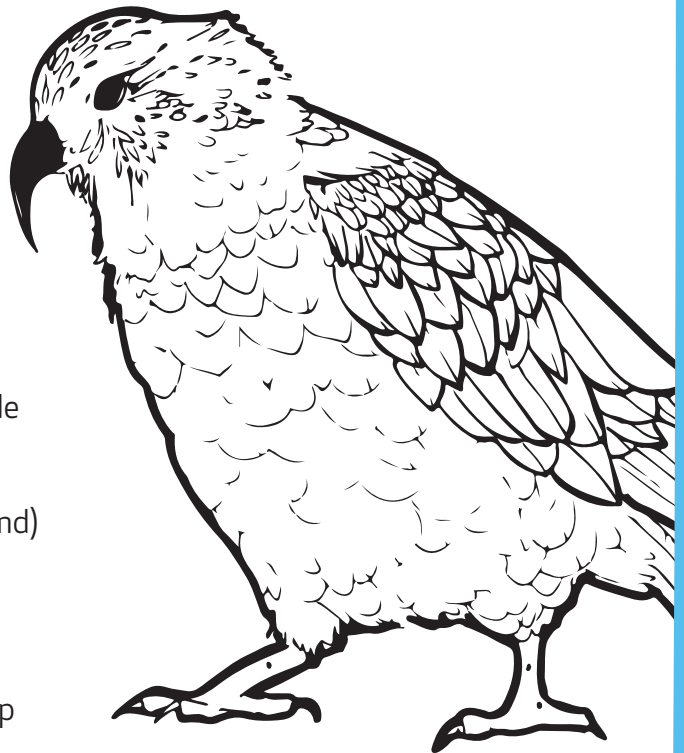
With a group of people you can test out some different bird **beaks** and see which work best!

## You will need

- Some different bird **beaks** (e.g. tongs, tweezers, chopsticks, pegs, a skewer, a straw or anything you have available that resembles a bird beak)
- Some different bird **foods** (e.g. worms made out of cut up rubber bands, mini marshmallows, paperclips, jelly beans, marbles, blocks – whatever you have on hand)

## Your challenge

1. Compete with the other birds in your group to get as much food as possible.
2. Spread out your various **food** items, and then choose a **beak** to be your tool.
3. Race to see how much food you can collect using your beak until all the food is gone!
4. Try another round and test out some of the different beak options.



## Reflect

Which **beaks** worked best?

Did some **beaks** work better for certain items and not for others?

Can you think of any birds that have a beak similar to any of your **beaks**?

