

# Bird beaks (Darwins' finches) investigation.

Birds have different shaped beaks. The shape is an adaptation to enable them to eat different types of food. On the Galapagos islands, the different species of finch can be classified into six groups. Each group has a beak specially adapted to eating its type of food.



**warbler finch**  
*slender beak for catching  
small  
insects on the wing*



**vegetarian tree finch**  
*curved parrot-like beak for  
crushing nuts*



**insect-eating tree finch**  
*curved parrot-like beak for  
feeding  
on beetles and other insects*



**woodpecker finch**  
*strong beak to pick up a stick  
which it pokes into trees to  
find insects*



**cactus ground finch**  
*long straight beak for getting  
nectar out of cactus flowers*



**large ground finch**  
*blunt beak for crushing seeds*

**You are going to find out whether pointed or blunt beaks are best for picking up different types of seeds.**

1. Collection of different sized seeds (you can use rice or any other small items if you do not have seeds) , an plate, a stop-clock, timer, a pair of tweezers or tongs, use your finger and thumb like this...



2. See how many seeds you can pick up with your fingers in 1 minute.
3. Repeat the experiment with each type of seed
4. Repeat the experiment with the fine forceps.
5. Record your results the table.

Seed type	Number of seeds collected with tweezer or tongs 	Place 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup>	Number of seeds collected with Finger / thumb (blunt) 	Place 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup>
Small -				
Medium -				
Large -				
Sticks -				
Odd shape - sunflower				

1. Which way was best for picking up the seeds? Explain why this was. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What shape of beak do you now think would be best for a seed-eating bird? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Does the evidence you have collected support your prediction? If yes or no, explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What did you keep the same?

5. What did you change each time?

What did you find out?

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**Diagram**

