



DISCOVER

Darwins finches (DM3)

Materials

- 6 different objects to use as "beaks": tongs, chopsticks, tweezers, spoons, forks, 2 rulers
 - 6 different "food" items: dried beans, macaroni, popcorn, walnuts, rice, cereal, gummy bears
 - 6 containers
1. Split into teams of 6. Each person in the team needs to pick a different "beak"
 2. For 1 min each person should practice using their beak on the different food groups.
 3. Choose an official timer for all the teams.
 4. Place one of the foods in the centre of the table where all birds have equal access.
 5. For 1 minute the birds compete with each other to see who can get the most food by picking up one food item at a time.
 6. The winning bird will be the one with the most food in their container and they will be allowed to claim this food group as their own.
 7. Do this for all 6 foods.

Consider these questions:

Are there any birds that did not claim a food group. What would happen to these birds in the wild?

What is the ideal beak?

What would happen if all species of finch living in the same habitat had the same beak shape?

Why might different beak shapes be a good thing?