

Bird Beak Buffet Teacher Time Activity

Synopsis:

This is an activity about different bird beak adaptations. It includes a game for the students to play, a discussion about the game and a book to read to the students. This activity should be done indoors.

Materials:

1. The box containing:
 - ★ The Bird Beaks: plastic spoons, chopsticks, spreaders (tongue depressors), clothespins, plastic forks and broken plastic spoons.
 - ★ The two food pile bags with 20 of each of the following: rubber bands, screws, beans, strings, paperclips, cotton balls, and pennies.
 - ★ A vis-à-vis wet erase pen and rag for clean up.
 - ★ 17 plastic cups (the stomachs)
2. The Data Chart for results (a rolled up, laminated poster).
3. The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay by Narelle Oliver, a book.

Preparation:

1. Ask students to find a partner.
2. While the students get into pairs dump the Food Pile #1 bag onto the floor near one end of the room (not next to the wall). Dump the Food Pile #2 bag onto the floor near the other end of the room (not next to the wall).
3. Ask a few students to pass out one cup to each pair of students.

Procedure:

1. Tell students that they and their partner are one bird, one is the stomach and gets to hold the cup (stomach) and the other is the mouth and will get a special beak to eat with. Let them know that they will play twice so each will get a chance to be both.
2. Explain that different kinds of birds have different kinds of beaks depending on what they eat. Different beaks are an example of an adaptation that birds have to help them survive, an adaptation is a change in structure, form or habit to fit different conditions.
3. Tell them that in this game different pairs of students are going to be different birds with different kinds of beaks. They will be competing with the other birds in the room to try to "eat" as much food from the food pile as they can.
4. Pass one beak out to each pair of students. Make sure to use at least 2 of each beak type except use only one

- broken spoon, depending on your number you will need to use 3 of some of the beaks and possibly a second broken spoon. 2 chopsticks = 1 beak but spreaders are used singly.
5. Tell them that when you're done explaining half of the pairs will go to Food Pile #1 and half to Food Pile #2 (you might just say students sitting on this half will use pile #1, those on the other half will use pile #2). At each pile the mouths will make a circle around the pile of food so that everyone has equal access. The stomachs will sit right behind their partner, but outside of the circle. The mouths must only use one hand during the game and the stomachs must hold the cups (stomachs) at all times.
 6. When you say it is time to start the mouths will try to get as many of the food items from the food pile into the stomach (cup) that their partner is holding. Reminder - mouths can only use one hand and stomachs can't touch the food! Any food spilled before it gets into a stomach (cup) is fair game for other birds. The first round will be done when all of the food is gone from the central pile.
 7. When the food piles are empty ask students to work in their pairs to count how many of each kind of food they successfully got into their cup.
 8. Fill in numbers on the wet erase Data Chart by asking students to say which mouth type they had and then the numbers of each food type they were able to eat.
 9. When the squares on the Data Chart are all filled in facilitate a discussion with your group about the results. Some possible questions include:
 - What was hard (or easy) about getting food?
 - What strategies did you use to get your food? (stealing/distracting?)
 - What is the broken spoon beak like from nature? (injury/disability)
 - What foods in nature could the "foods" in this game be?
 - What if some of the "food" types in this game went extinct, i.e. no strings or rubber bands? Which birds would be most affected and least affected?
 - How is this game realistic and unrealistic? (specialists vs. generalists)
 10. Play the game again so the students can switch within their pair. Discussion is optional this time.

Wrap Up:

Read The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay and field any last questions.