

## LESSON 2

### BIRDS- BEAKS AND CLAWS

Birds use their beaks and **claws** to catch, hold and eat their food. Some birds eat the flesh of other animals, some birds eat grains, seeds and fruits. The shape of a bird's beak and claws are suited to the type of food it eats.



### BEAKS

The beak of a bird that eats nuts is different from that of a bird that eats the flesh of other animals. Hence, a parakeet's beak is different from a hawk's beak in its size and shape. Let us learn about different kinds beaks.

#### Short, Hard, Horny Beak

Birds such as sparrows and pigeons have short, hard and **horny** beaks. helps them to pick up and crush seeds.



### Curved Beak

A parakeet has a strong and curved beak. It helps the bird to crack nuts and eat hard fruits.



### Chisel-shaped Beak

A woodpecker has a strong and **chisel**-shaped beak. It helps the bird to make holes in tree trunks and catch insects.



### Long Slender Beak

A hummingbird has a long and **slender** beak. It helps the bird to suck nectar from flowers.



### Short, Broad Beak

A swallow has a short and broad beak. Its beak is sticky on the inside.

When the swallow flies in the air with its beak open, tiny insects get caught in its mouth.



### Broad, Flat Beak











A duck has a broad, flat and spoon-like beak with tiny holes on both sides. A duck usually eats insects, worms and water plants. It takes in its food with water. The water flows out through these tiny holes, leaving the plants and insects inside the beak.



### Strong, Sharp, Hooked Beak

Flesh-eating birds such as eagles, vultures and hawks have strong, sharp and **hooked** beaks to tear flesh.



Bird	Beak	Shape of the beak	Purpose of the beak
Eagle 		It has a strong, sharp and hooked beak	This shape helps eagle to catch animals as it flies.
Parrot 		It has a sharp and curved beak	This shape helps crack nuts and seeds and to tear fruits.
Duck 		It has a flat and broad beak.	This shape helps it to catch fish and worms in the water.
Sparrow 		It has a small pointed beak.	This shape helps it to pick small grains.
Hummingbird 		It has a straw-like, long and slender beak.	This shape helps it to suck nectar from flowers.

## FEET AND CLAWS

Birds have two feet with four toes on each foot. They use their feet to walk and hop around. Each toe has a curved and pointed claw at its end. The claws of birds help them to catch and hold food.

Let us learn about different kinds of feet and claws.

## FLESH-EATING BIRDS

The strong and sharp claws of flesh-eating birds such as eagles and hawks are called **talons**. They help them to catch their prey.



## PERCHING BIRDS

Birds such as sparrows and crows hold on to branches of trees and sit on them. This is called **perching**. The feet of perching birds have three toes in front and one toe at the back. This helps them to hold on to the branches firmly.



## SCRATCHING BIRDS

Birds such as hens and peacocks have sharp and hard claws with three toes in front and one at the back for digging. They **scratch** and dig the ground with their claws to pull out worms and insects.





### CLIMBING BIRDS

Birds such as woodpeckers and parakeets have two toes pointing forward and two toes pointing backward. This helps them to climb up a tree and cling on to a branch while looking for food.



### WADING BIRDS











Water birds such as cranes and herons are **wading** birds. These birds have long legs with toes that are spread out. This helps them to wade through muddy water. Their legs do not sink into the mud.



## SWIMMING BIRDS

Birds that swim have short legs. Birds such as ducks and pelicans have three toes in front and one at the back. The three front toes are joined by thin skin. Such feet are called **webbed feet**. It helps the bird to swim in water.



Bird	Types of feet	Purpose of the feet
Woodpecker 		It has two toes in front and two at the back. It has long curved claws. This shape helps them climb and hold on the trees.
Duck 		It has three toes that are webbed together. It has a little toe at the back. This shape helps them swim as they use their feet to push against the water and move forward.
Vulture 		It has four toes with sharp claws. The claws help to catch small animals.
Sparrow 		It has three toes in front and one at the back to hold on the branches tightly.
Crane 		It has long legs and the four toes are spread. This helps them to walk near the banks of the rivers and lakes to eat fish.

## Science Around Us

Penguins keep their eggs between their feet and stomach to keep them warm. The baby penguin comes out from its shell after around 63 days.

### IMPORTANT TERMS

claws	- here, pointed nails of a bird
nectar	- sweet liquid found in flowers
wade	- to walk through shallow water and mud
horny	- hard and rough
chisel	- a wedge-like tool with a cutting edge.
Slender	- slim
hooked	- bent or hook-like
perching	- sitting on something narrow
scratching	- digging with the claws
wading	- walking in water

### LET US REVISE

- The shape of a bird's beak and claws is suited to the type of food it eats and the place where it lives.
- The claws help birds to grab food and to protect themselves from their enemies.
- The sharp claws of flesh-eating birds are called talons.
- Webbed feet help the birds to swim in water.



## EXERCISES

Pick the odd one.

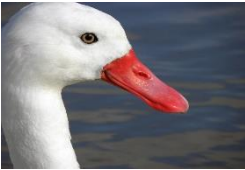
1. sparrow      pigeon      parakeet      duck

2. vulture      eagle      peacock      hawk

3. heron      crane      flamingo      pigeon

Match the shape of the beak with the name of the bird.

1.



a. pigeon

2.



b. duck

3.



c. parakeet

4.



d. hawk



5.

e. woodpecker

Ans. 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-e, 5-a

Answer the following questions.

1. How are the beaks of a duck and a sparrow different?

Ans. Duck has a broad, flat and spoon-like beak with tiny holes on both sides, to help it eat insects, worms and water plants. A sparrow has a short, hard, horny and cone-shaped beak to help it to pick up and crush seeds.

2 What kind of beak does a vulture have?

Ans. A vulture has a strong, sharp and hooked beak.

3. How do the feet of perching birds help them?

Ans. The feet of perching birds have three toes in front and one toe at the back. This helps them to hold on to the branches firmly.

4. Write any two examples of wading birds.

Ans. Cranes and herons are wading birds.

5. How does a duck swim in water?

Ans. Ducks have three toes in front and one at the back. The three front toes are joined by thin skin. Such feet are called webbed feet. These webbed feet help the ducks to swim in water.

### Beyond the chapter.

Do all birds fly? Do you know some birds that cannot fly?

Ans. No, all birds do not fly. The tiny wings of some birds cannot lift their heavy bodies off the ground. For example, ostrich, penguin, kiwi etc.

## WORKSHEET 1

### A. Name a bird

1. that has webbed feet.

Ans. Duck

Ans. Pigeon

2. that has sharp, hard and horny beak.

Ans. Sparrow

3. that has a long and slender beak to suck nectar from flowers.

Ans. Humming bird.

4. that has long and thin legs to wade through muddy water.

Ans. Crane

### Write T for True or F for False.

1. A bird has a very light body. T

2. Long legs with spread-out toes help the birds to climb trees. F

3. A bird's tail acts like the rudder of a boat. T

4. Swimming birds have webbed feet.

T

Answer the following questions.

1. What are talons?

Ans. Talons are the strong, sharp and curved claws of flesh-eating birds.

2. How do climbing birds cling on to trees?

Ans. Climbing birds have two toes pointing forward and two pointing backward. They use these toes to cling to trees.

**WORKSHEET2**

Choose the correct answer from the given options.

1. Which of the following bird eat nuts and seeds?

A. Sparrow      B. Eagle      C. Vulture

2. Which of the following bird eat nuts and seeds?

A. Eagle      B. Pigeon      C. Vulture

3. ----- beaks help the birds to crack open their food.

A. Weak, short, and soft      B. strong, short, and hard

4. Flesh-eating birds have \_\_\_\_\_ beaks for tearing flesh.

A. strong, sharp, and hooked      B. short, blunt, and soft

5. Which of the following birds have strong chisel-shaped beaks?

A. Pigeon      B. Crow      C. Woodpecker

6. Which of the following birds have strong chisel-shaped beaks?

A. Hoopoe      B. Sparrow      C. Eagle

7. Which of the following beaks help birds to poke holes into hard tree trunks?

A. strong chisel-shaped      B. Broad and flat shaped

8. Which of the following birds have broad and flat beaks, with holes on either side?

A. Duck      B. Hoopoe      C. Parrot

9. Which of the following birds have broad and flat beaks, with holes on either side?

A. Parrot      B. Geese      C. Woodpecker

10. Which of the following birds have broad and flat beaks, with holes on either side?

A. Crow      B. Sparrow      C. Duck

Answer the following questions.

1. Write the names of some common birds.

Ans. Parrot, pigeon , sparrow

2. Write the name of two swimming birds.

Ans. Duck, Swan

3. Write any three features of birds.



Ans. Birds have wings to fly and beak to eat food. They have feathers on their body.

4. What are the uses of beaks?

Ans. Birds use their beaks to catch, hold and eat their food.

5. Write the name of birds which have crushing beak?

Ans. Sparrow , pigeon

6. Write the name of the bird which have sticky beak.

Ans. Swallow

7. Duck has which type of beak?

Ans. Duck has broad and flat beak with holes on both sides.

8. What are the uses of claws?

Ans. The claws of birds help them to catch and hold food.

9. How does a swallow catch its food?

Ans. When the swallow flies in the air with its beak open, tiny insects get caught in its mouth.

10. Write the name of the birds which cannot fly.

Ans. Penguin, kiwi, emu, ostrich.

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