

Chapter- 7

Birds: Food and More

STUDY NOTES

LET'S LEARN:

Like other living things, birds need food. Some birds eat flesh while some eat grains, seed and fruits. Birds use their beaks and claws to catch, hold and eat their food. A bird's beak and its claws are suited to the type of food it eats.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF BEAKS

- **Strong, sharp and hooked beak** – Eagles, Vultures and Kites are birds of prey. They eat small animals like chicks, mice, frogs and snakes. They have strong, sharp and hooked beaks to tear flesh.

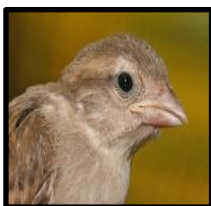


VULTURE



EAGLE

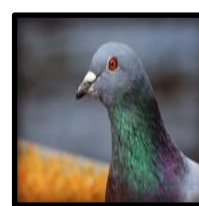
- **Short, hard and horny beak** - Sparrows, pigeons, peacocks and finches have short, hard and horny beaks to crush grains and seeds.



SPARROW



PEACOCK



PIGEON



FINCH

- **Curved beak** - The curved beak of a parakeet helps it to crack nuts and hard fruits. This curved beak also helps it to climb trees.



PARAKEET

- **Strong and chisel-shaped beak** – A woodpecker has strong and chisel-shaped beak. It helps to tap the bark of trees and take out insects.



WOODPECKER

- **Broad and short beak** - The broad and short beak of a swallow is sticky on the inside. The bird moves round and round in the air with its beak open and tiny flying insects get stuck inside.



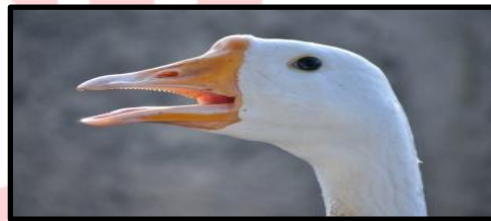
SWALLOW

- **Long and slender beak** - A hoopoe is able to pull out insects from holes in the ground with its long and slender beak.



HOOPOE

- **Broad and flat beak** - The broad and flat beak of a duck has tiny holes on the sides. The duck takes in muddy water with insects, worms and water plants. The mud and water flow out through the tiny holes leaving the plants and insects inside the beak.



DUCK

FEET AND CLAW - Birds mainly use their feet and claws to catch food and to protect themselves from their enemies. The feet and claws of birds are suited to their uses.

- **Flesh-eating birds** - Some flesh-eating birds like hawks and eagles have sharp, curved claws called talons. They use their talons to grip and carry small animals like toads, rats and small birds.



EAGLE



HAWK

- **Perching birds** - Some perching birds like sparrows, mynahs and crows have three toes in front and one at the back. These feet help the birds to hold on to a branch and even sleep while they perch.



CROW



SPARROW



MYNAH

- **Scratching birds** - Hens and roosters scratch the ground to find insects and seeds to eat. They have strong legs with three toes in front and one toe at the back. Their sharp, hard claws help them scratch the ground.



HEN

- **Climbing Birds** – Woodpeckers and parakeets have two toes pointed towards the front and two pointed towards the back. These toes help them to climb trees and to cling on to them.



WOODPECKER



PARAKEET

- **Swimming birds** – Birds such as ducks and geese have webbed feet. They have three toes in front and one toe at the back. The toes are joined together by skin which is called a web. This helps them to push water back while swimming.



DUCK

- **Wading birds** - Birds like cranes and herons are long-legged with spread-out toes to wade through muddy water without getting wet.



HERON

HOW DOES A BIRD FLY?

- A bird has a very light body made up of hollow bones and thin plates. Also, the body is shaped like a boat. This shape helps it to cut through air.
- The birds have wings. The wings have feathers which help it to fly. The strong muscles which are attached to the bird's body help it to move the wings up and down or forward and backward.
- The bird's tail help the bird to change its direction while flying.
- **Wing movement** - A bird does fly by flapping its wings up and down. The wings have two types of movements.

- **Upstroke:** The wings move upward and backward.



UPSTROKE

- **Down stroke:** The wings move downward and forward.



DOWNSTROKE

- **Feathers of birds** – Feathers help a bird to fly. They also keep its body warm. A bird's body is covered with small and fluffy feathers to keep it warm. These are called **down feathers**. The long, flat feathers attached to the wings and tail help the bird to fly. These are called **flight feathers**.



DOWN FEATHER



FLIGHT FEATHER

NESTING HABITS

Birds build nests to lay eggs. They choose places which are safe from enemies and bad weather. The materials like twigs, dry leaves, cotton, thread, wool, feathers, hair, pieces of cloth, paper and pebbles are used by the birds to build their nests.

The tailor bird – The tailor bird uses its beak like a needle to sew leaves with material like thread and wool. This is why it is called the tailor bird. The nest is made cosy with cotton, wool, hair or dry grass.



THE NEST OF A TAILOR BIRD

- **The weaver bird** - The weaverbird makes a beautiful and strong nest with twigs and grass. It weaves the grass in and out rapidly. The nest hangs from the branch of a tree. The bird enters its home through a tunnel-like opening at the bottom of the nest.



NEST OF A WEAVER BIRD

- **The eagle** - Birds like the eagle and the vulture make nests by gathering a few sticks and simply putting them together in the shape of a shallow cup.



NEST OF AN EAGLE

- **The Woodpecker**

The woodpecker pecks a tree trunk with its beak to make a hole. To make its nest cozy, it lines the hole with chips of wood.



A WOODPECKER'S NEST

- **The Penguin**

The penguin collects a few pebbles and stones to make a nest on the ground.



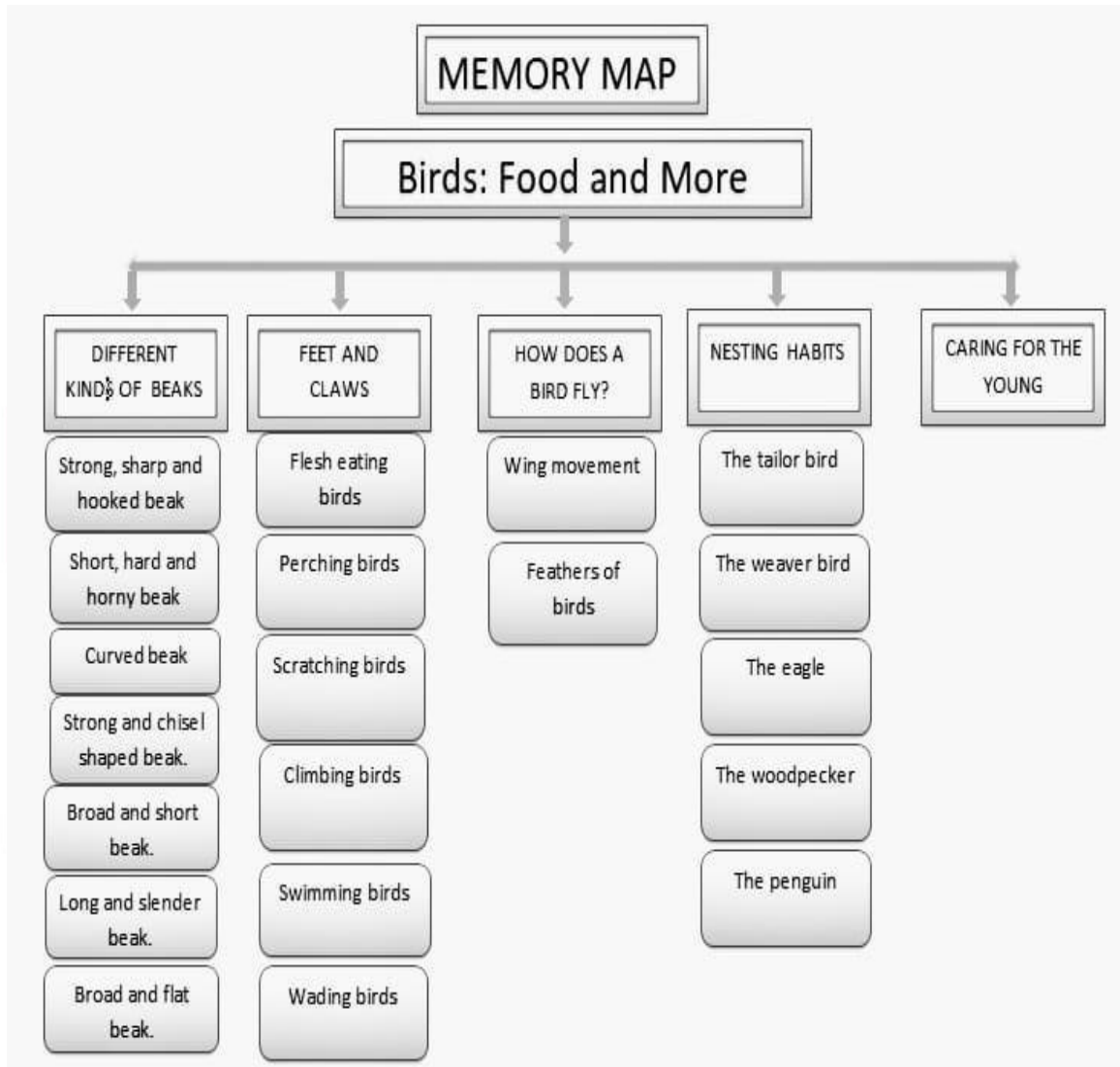
NEST OF PENGUIN

CARE FOR THE YOUNG

After the mother bird lays her eggs, she sits on them to keep them warm. The father bird protects them from enemies.

The parents feed them and keep them warm. They protect them from enemies and bad weather. The parents look after the babies till their feathers grow and they learn to fly and look for food on their own.

MEMORY MAP



Teacher's note:

- Collect pictures of different bird's nest from old books/magazines and make a collage in your Project Record.

Imrove your G.K.

- Ostriches have the largest eyes of any land animal.
- Some ducks sleep with one eye open.
- Most Humming birds weigh less than a nickel.
- Parrots can learn to say hundreds of words.

Let's know more

Name a bird that does the following.

1. Swim in water: _____
2. Climb trees: _____
3. Wade through water: _____
4. Crushes seeds: _____
5. Perch on trees: _____

**Let us answer**

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1. These birds of prey have strong, sharp and hooked beaks..
 - a. Eagles, vultures and sparrows
 - b. Vultures, kites and pigeons
 - c. Eagles, vultures and kites.
2. Feet with two toes upwards and two toes downwards help birds to
 - a. hold on to a branch
 - b. dig the ground
 - c. climb trees
3. A bird's body is covered with.
 - a. down feathers
 - b. up feathers
 - c. fight feathers

4. This bird uses its beak like a needle to sew leaves with material like thread and wool.

- a. the weaver bird b. the tailor bird c. the woodpecker

B. Match the columns.

1.		a. help birds to climb trees
2.		b. help birds to dig out ground
3.		c. help birds in swimming
4.		d. help birds to catch small birds

C. Name the bird that

1. weaves grass in and out to make its nest. _____
2. collects a few sticks to make a cup – shaped nest. _____
3. its front toes are joined by a skin. _____
4. collects pebbles and stones to make a nest . _____

5. makes its nest in the hollow of a tree. _____

D. Answer these questions.

1. What kind of beaks do most grain-eating birds have?
2. What are the uses of the curved beak of a parakeet?
3. How is a duck's beak different from that of a sparrow?
4. How do the feet of perching birds help them?
5. How do the legs of wading birds help them?
6. Why do birds make nests?
7. How do birds look after their babies?

E. What is it ? Beginning with Y, cross out every other letter to get the name of a bird.

Y P N A O R O A X K N E G E M T

Answer key

Let's know more

1. Duck 2. Parrot 3. Crane 4. Sparrow 5. Crow

Let us answer

- A. 1.c, 2.c, 3.a, 4.b

B. Match the statement with the correct picture.

1.



a. help birds to climb trees

2.



b. help birds to dig out ground

3.



c. help birds in swimming

4.



d. help birds to catch small birds

C. Name the bird that:

1. weaves grass in and out to make its nest. Weaver bird
2. collects a few sticks to make a cup-shaped nest. Eagle
3. its front toes are joined by a skin. Duck
4. collects pebbles and stones to make a nest. Penguin
5. makes its nest in the hollow of a tree. Woodpecker

D. Answer these questions.

Ans -1: Most grain eating birds having short, hard and horny beaks like sparrows, pigeons etc..

Ans-2 : The curved beak of a parakeet helps it to crack nuts and hard fruits also helps it to climb trees.

Ans-3 : The beak of a duck is broad and flat which has tiny holes on the sides whereas a sparrow has short, hard and horny.

Ans-4: The feet of the perching birds like sparrows, mynah and crows have three toes in front and one at the aback help them to hold on to a branch and also even to sleep while perching.

Ans - 5: The legs of wading birds like cranes and herons have long legged with spread-out toes help them to wade through muddy water without getting wet.

Ans - 6: The birds make nests to lay eggs and also choose places which are safe from enemies and bad weather.

Ans - 7: The birds feed their babies, keep them warm. Also they protect their babies from enemies and bad weather.

E. Ans. After crossing every other letter to get the name of a bird is **PARAKEET**.

Y P N A O R O A X K N E G E M T

