

## Grades 1–2: Activity 1

### Birds and their Beaks

Parents and caregivers! Try this simple activity at home with your child.

Look at any of John Abbot's birds from the collection of the Morris Museum. The painting below is titled *Plover or Kildee*. Point out to your child the various types of beaks on the birds. Talk to him about why birds have different types of beaks. For example, the shape and size of each species' bill is specific for the type of food it gathers. Cardinals have heavy thick bills used to crack seeds. Meat-eaters, like the eagle, have a sharp, hooked bill to tear flesh. Hummingbirds have thin bills to sip nectar.

In this activity, help your child create a bird drawing.

#### Materials:

8½ x 11 inch piece of white paper

Scissors

Crayons or colored pencils

#### Steps:

1. In the example provided, we chose to draw a bird that has a very long beak. It uses its long beak to dive into the water and catch large fish. Help your child pick out a type of bird to draw. Help her to carefully sketch out her bird. Good sources of inspiration are your own backyard or a magazine or book.
2. Make sure your child includes the type of food their bird eats as well as the environment they inhabit. When she has finished sketching out her bird, she can add color with colored pencils or crayons.
3. On the back of the drawing, encourage your child to write the type of bird drawn, the type of food it eats, and where the bird lives.

