

## FORMAL ASSESSMENT

# Bountiful Birds

Each activity in the Estuaries 101 Middle School Curriculum is designed around specific performance tasks. A generalized set of scoring rubrics is provided to judge student progress against these performance tasks. Use the performance assessment indicators in the table below along with the suggested answers in the Teacher Guide to arrive at a score for each performance task.

In addition, you can use the attached Student Assessment handout to conduct a formal assessment at the conclusion of the activity. Use the suggested answers and performance assessment indicators to rate each student's progress.

Performance Tasks	Performance Assessment Indicators		
	Low - Basic	Medium - Proficient	High- Advanced
Students can choose an estuary bird and describe how the structure and function of that bird's beak helps identify the habitat in which the bird lives and the type of food it likely eats.	The response is partially correct. There is also evidence of inaccurate, incomplete, or inappropriate skills or knowledge.	The response is correct, and demonstrates accurate understanding of concepts. Minor inaccuracies may appear but there is no evidence of misconceptions.	Evidence of higher-level thinking and the application of the appropriate skills and prior knowledge. The response is correct and complete, and contains elaboration and extension. There is no evidence of misconceptions. Minor inaccuracies should not necessarily lower the score.
Students can compare and contrast the great blue heron with the osprey and other birds in estuary habitats.			

## Questions and Answers

Match the estuary bird with its beak function by drawing a line connecting the two boxes.

Roseate Spoonbill – B

Wood Stork – C

Great Egret – D

Black Headed Stilt – A

## Reflection Question

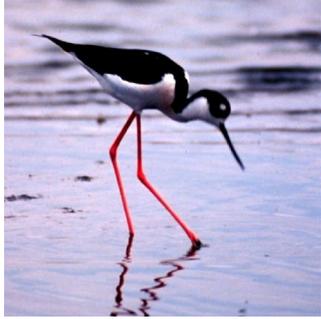
What does the shape of the above birds' beak tell you about estuary habitats?

Birds have beak adaptations that allow them to efficiently feed in specific estuary environments. Beaks differ in design depending on where the bird feeds and the function for which the beak is used. Student answers will vary.

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT

### Bountiful Birds

The shape of a bird’s beak or bill is a clue to how it’s used. Your challenge is to analyze the estuary bird and its beak in the top row below. Then look in the bottom row for a possible description of the beak function for the estuary birds. Match the estuary bird with its beak function by drawing a line connecting the two boxes.

			
<p><b>Roseate Spoonbill</b></p>	<p><b>Wood Stork</b></p>	<p><b>Great Egret</b></p>	<p><b>Black Headed Stilt</b></p>

<p>Insect-eating birds with slender, pointed beaks that allow them to pick up insects or get insects out of wherever they’re hiding.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p>	<p>Broad bills used for straining food out of water and mud.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p>	<p>Hooked beaks are useful for tearing apart the flesh of prey.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p>	<p>Wading birds that have long sharp bills that are useful for spearing fish and frogs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p>
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### Reflection Question

What does the shape of the above beaks tell you about estuary habitats?