Beak Description

Instructions: Read each of the descriptions and then draw a line from each beak to the prey that it is best suited to. Pay attention to detail. Really think about how each beak would work before you match it to its prey item.

1. This beak is extra long, allowing the bird to probe for deep lying prey.

2. This relatively short and stalky beak allows the bird to probe for shallow lying prey.

3. This beak is medium in length, allowing the bird to probe for medium depth prey.

4. This beak has lamellae, which filters the water for small particles (bacteria and plankton) just like baleen do.

5. This straight, narrow beak is used for capturing prey that is swallowed whole.

6. This short, heavy, hooked beak is ideal for holding and tearing prey too large to be swallowed whole. This beak is best for shallow feeding because its shape and size interfere with fast underwater pursuit.

7. This beak is heavy and streamlined, which makes it good for deep diving. The heavy structure allows the bird to feed on tougher, crunchier prey.

8. This beak has a longer lower mandible, which allows the bird to feed while flying. The beak "skims" the surface of the water for prey.