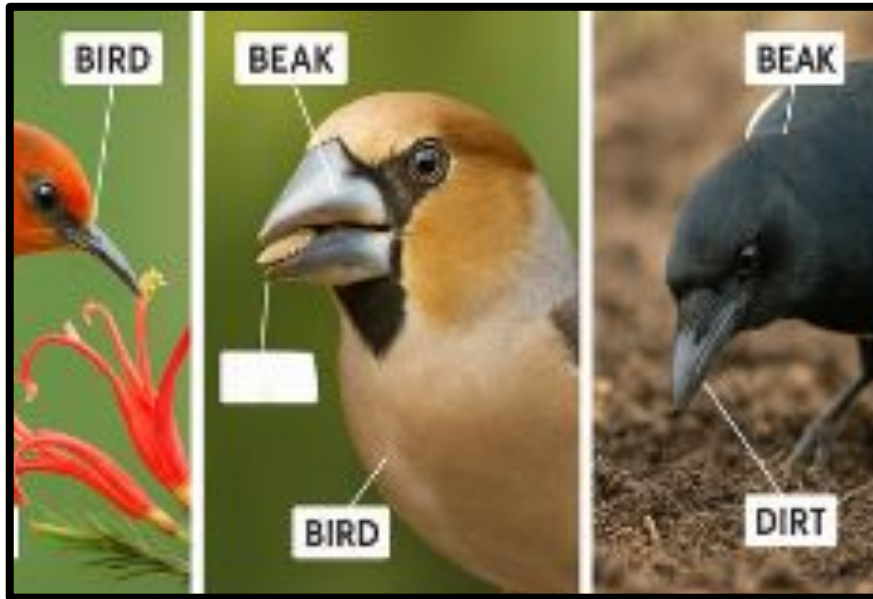


## Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ir)

*"This nonfiction story explains how birds use their beaks. Look for 'ir' words like 'bird,' 'chirp,' and 'dirt' as you explore how birds live!"*



### How Birds Use Their Beaks

Birds use their beaks to eat, build, and chirp.

Each kind of bird has a beak made for its job.

Long, thin beaks help birds sip nectar from flowers.

Short, firm beaks help birds crack seeds and nuts.

Some birds dig in the dirt with their beaks to find bugs.

Others use their beaks to stir twigs and build a nest.

Birds need strong beaks to live and thrive.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

bird

dirt

chirp

stir

firm



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## How Birds Use Their Beaks

1. Why do some birds have short, firm beaks?

- A. To fly faster
- B. To crack seeds and nuts
- C. To chirp louder
- D. To swim better

2. What can birds do with their beaks?

- A. Only eat
- B. Fly high
- C. Dig in dirt and build nests
- D. Swim and bark

3. Fill in the blank:

Some birds dig in the \_\_\_\_\_ with their beaks to find bugs.

4. How are bird beaks different depending on what they eat?

---

---

---

5. What are two smart ways birds use their beaks besides eating?

---

---

---



# Coaching Guide

---

**Target Skill:** ir R-Controlled Vowel

**Genre:** Nonfiction – Animal Science

**High-Frequency Words:** each, with, help, find, live

---

## Before Reading

1. This story uses “ir” words like *bird*, *chirp*, *dirt*, *firm*, and *stir*.
  2. Have you ever watched a bird use its beak? What did it do?
  3. Why do you think different birds have different beaks?
- 

## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Blend and tap “ir” words like *chirp*, *stir*, *dirt*, and *firm*.
  2. Watch for ir words that describe how birds survive
  3. What does each beak shape help a bird do?
  4. Read the final line like you’re giving a wildlife fact
- 

## After Reading

1. Retell two or three ways birds use their beaks
  2. Why is a strong beak important to a bird’s life?
  3. If you were a bird, what kind of beak would you want and why?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ir” words in the passage
  5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like a nature guide teaching about birds
- 

## Activity Idea

Draw three birds with different beak shapes: one for nectar, one for seeds, and one for digging. Label parts using ir words like *bird*, *chirp*, *stir*, or *dirt*. Write one sentence about how beaks help birds thrive.

---

## Coaching Tip

Animal facts keep kids reading with interest—use nonfiction to show how decoding supports real knowledge.

