Exploring How Ducks Stay Dry: Learning About Waterproof Feathers and Animal Adaptations / Subject Explorer / LearningCorner.co

# **Core Skills Analysis**

### Science

- Henry learned about the special oil gland that ducks have, which helps keep their feathers waterproof.
- He observed the behavior of ducks preening themselves to spread oil on their feathers, understanding this as a natural waterproofing mechanism.
- Henry connected real-world pond observations with scientific information from the book, reinforcing the concept of animal adaptations for survival in their habitat.
- He discovered how anatomy (oil gland) and behavior (preening) work together to help ducks stay dry and comfortable in wet environments.

### Tips

To deepen Henry's understanding of animal adaptations, consider organizing more nature walks near ponds or wetlands to observe waterfowl behavior in different conditions. Encouraging Henry to draw or craft a duck feather and demonstrate how oil might repel water can provide hands-on reinforcement. Additionally, exploring other animals that have unique traits for waterproofing or protection, such as otters or beavers, can broaden his ecological knowledge. Incorporating simple experiments, like testing wax or oils on feathers or paper, can also introduce basic scientific inquiry and cause-effect reasoning in a fun and tangible way.

### **Book Recommendations**

- <u>Ducks Don't Get Wet</u> by Ellen Lawrence: This book explains why ducks remain dry by focusing on the oil gland and their preening habits, using engaging text and photographs suitable for young learners.
- <u>Feathers: Not Just for Flying</u> by Melissa Stewart: A beautifully illustrated book that explains the many functions of feathers beyond flight, including insulation and waterproofing.
- <u>Water Can Be... A Discovery Book about Water</u> by Laura Purdie Salas: An introduction to the many forms and features of water, helping children appreciate water habitats and the animals that live there.

## Learning Standards

- NGSS K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including ducks) need to survive.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.3: With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.

## **Try This Next**

- Create a simple worksheet where Henry can label parts of a duck's feather and the oil gland with drawings or stickers.
- Conduct a hands-on experiment where Henry tests how drops of water behave on oily vs. nonoily surfaces, observing water repellency.

#### **Growth Beyond Academics**

This activity likely fostered Henry's natural curiosity and observational skills by connecting his outdoor experience with reading. It also may have boosted his confidence in learning new facts about animals, strengthening his attention to detail and enthusiasm for science exploration.