

Competition 13: Evolution of flight

Like mammals, birds are highly evolved endotherms. Scientifically they are thought of as miniature, feathered, flying dinosaurs. As with the mammal story, the fossil record of their evolution includes several intermediate grades of adaptation, in this case various dinosaurs. Investigate the evolution of bird characteristics such as bipedalism (walking on the back legs), feathers for insulation, air sacs to aid breathing, and wings for flying; [here is a source you might start with](#).

Write a 300-word essay on what you have found out about how the ability of birds to fly evolved. You may want to include diagrams of your own to help explain your findings.

How to enter

1. Complete your competition entry and make sure it follows the guidelines listed below
2. Fill out the [Competition Cover Sheet](#)
3. Email your entry and your cover sheet to us at inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Terms & Conditions

1. You must complete the [Competition Cover Sheet](#) and submit it along with your entry to inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk before the closing date. If we do not receive a completed cover sheet with your entry, we will NOT be able to consider the entry.
2. The competition closes at **5pm on Wednesday 24 February 2021**.
3. The work you submit must be entirely your own and must be 300 words or less.
4. Competition winners will be contacted via email about a week after the competition's closing date. The following prizes will be awarded:
 - a. 1st place: £20 Amazon gift voucher, entry listed on Inspire Digital
 - b. 2nd place: £10 Amazon gift voucher, entry listed on Inspire Digital
 - c. Up to 5 top entries: entry listed on Inspire Digital