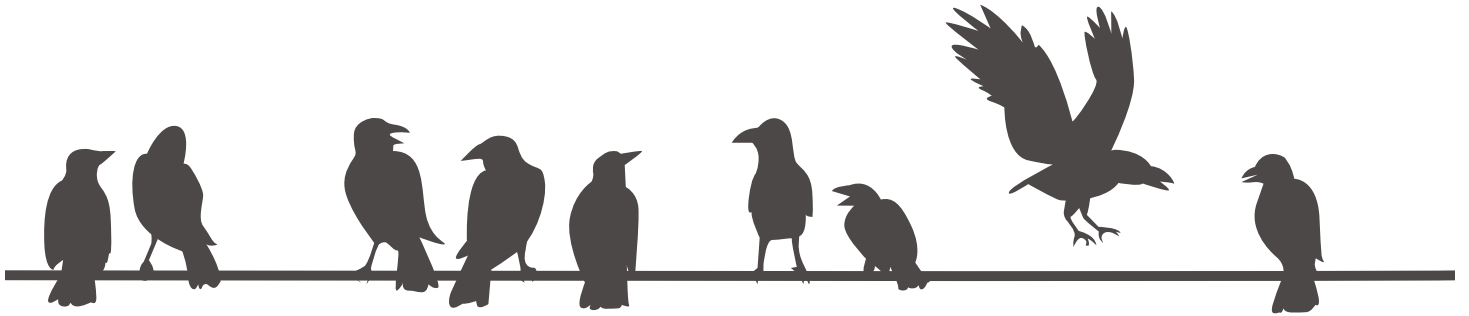


Crows: Birdbrains or Brainiacs?

Museum
at Home
Natural History



Did you know that crows are one of the smartest groups of animals on the planet? Science experiments even show that some are as good at solving puzzles as a seven year old human!

Chances are you've seen the clever clog crows as they live in Ireland. The crow family is known overall as the Corvids, and there are over 40 different species, including eight in Ireland.

Test your skills now against the cleverest of crows with this activity sheet.

Brilliant Brains: New Caledonian Crows



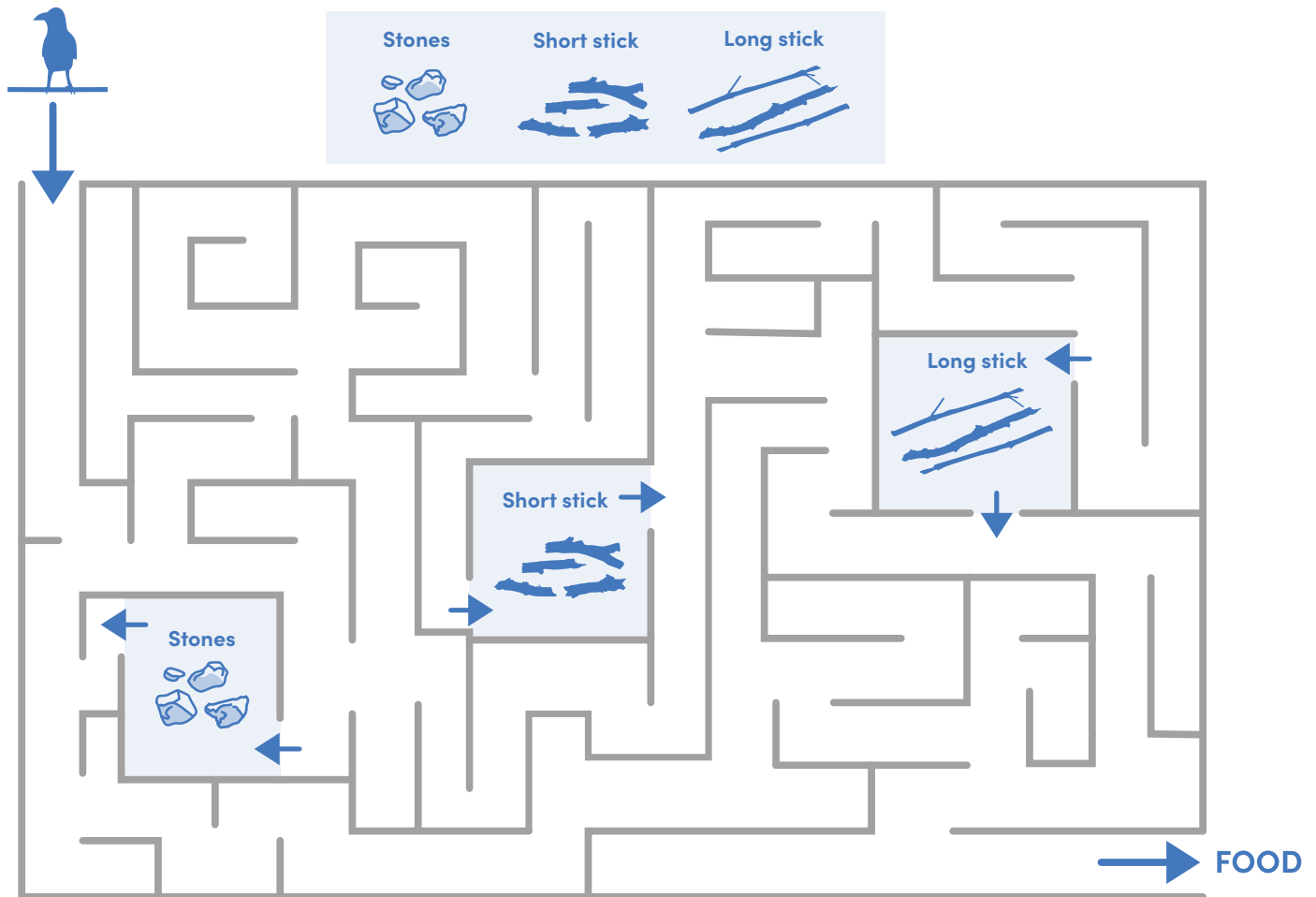
Did you know that crows play? Many types of crow have been seen playing with sticks and plants in the wild, jumping, playing chase, dancing, and even "body surfing" on snowy slopes! Play helps them practice skills they might need, like getting on with others, and teaching them about their world.

New Caledonian Crows, from an island in the Pacific, are the Einsteins of the bird world. These clever corvids have been spotted making their own tools to catch food in the wild.

Scientists have shown that they can solve hard problems to get a yummy food reward.

Clever Crows Maze:

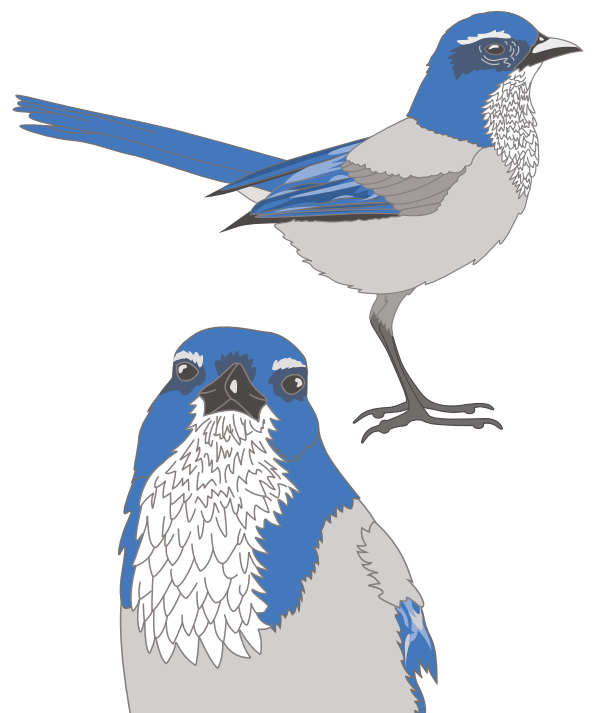
Find your way through the experiment to reach the food. Find **1)** the short stick before **2)** gathering the stones and **3)** collecting the long stick to **4)** get the food!



Super Scrub Jays:

Another clever crow is the **Scrub Jay** from western North America. These crows have excellent memories. They remember where they hide large amounts of food in the wild!

They are also very careful not to be seen by others when they are hiding the food. The most secretive hiders are the birds who have experience of stealing from other Jays! It takes a thief to spot a thief!



Did you know crows can say more than just “caw”? Scientists discovered some can communicate by using over 30 different “caw”, “quork” or scream sounds. They make sounds to alert each other to danger, to mark their territory, call other crows to their location, and to make friends.

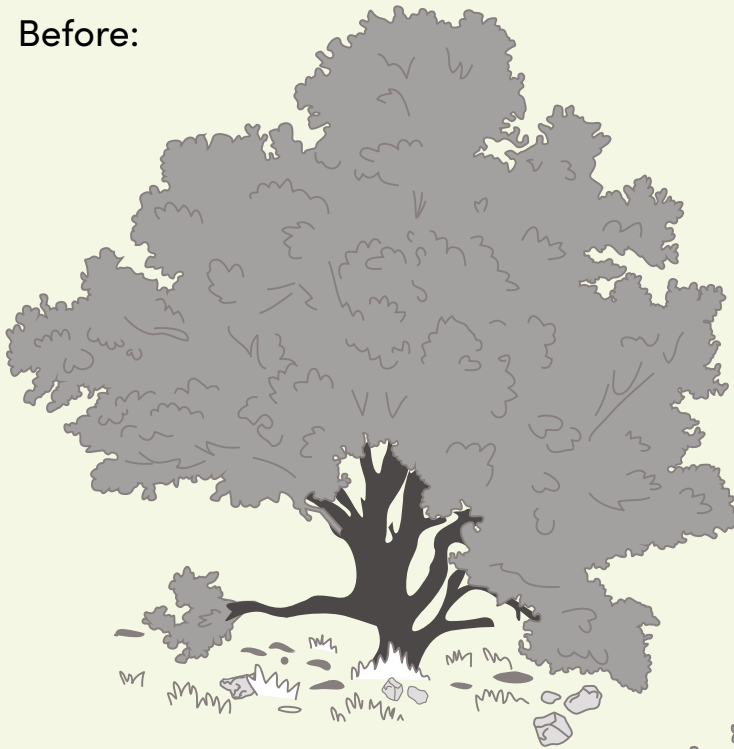


Spot the Difference:

Below you can see this scrub jay’s hiding place, or “cache” of food. Look closely, can you spot the differences between the pictures, and tell which of your hiding places have been disturbed?

Spot the difference game (5 differences):

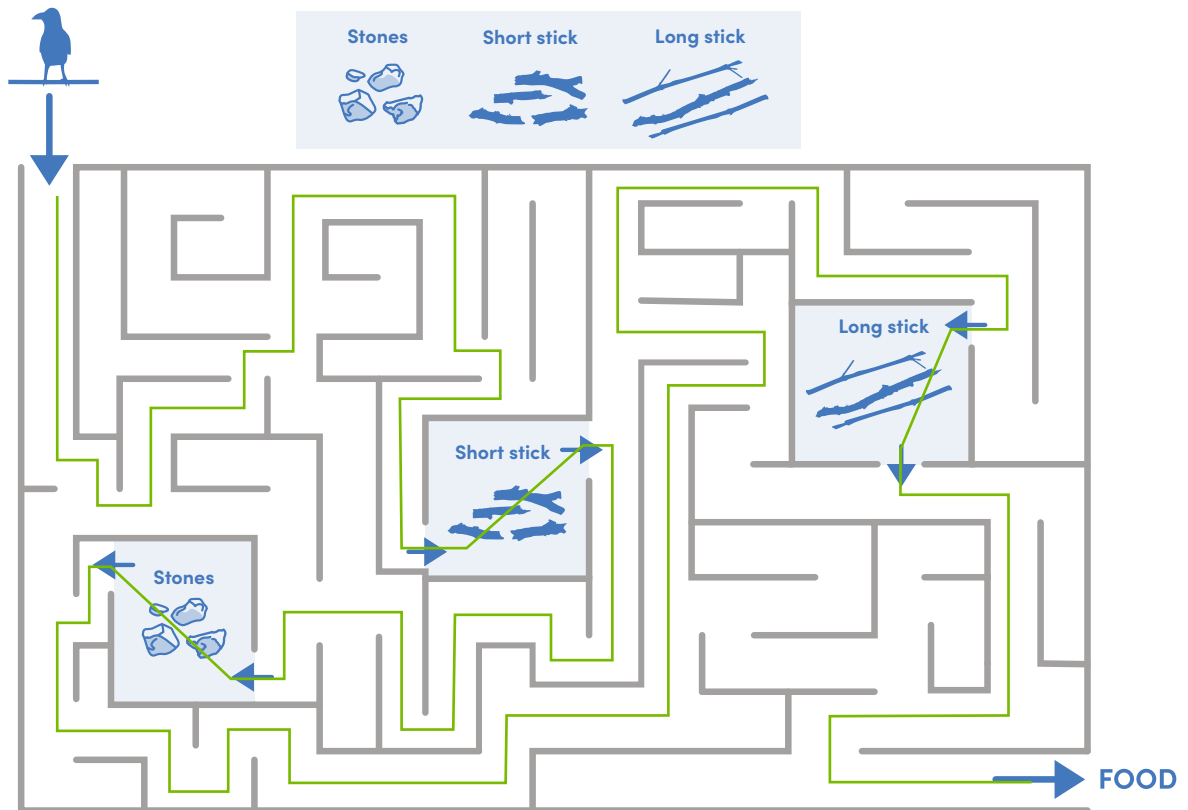
Before:



After:



Solutions Page: Maze Solution



Spot the difference solution

