



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

# Birds

Birds are amazing creatures that fill our skies with color and song. They come in all shapes and sizes, each with unique characteristics that help them **thrive** in their environments. In this text, we'll explore the fascinating world of birds and learn about their special features.

## Feathers

Birds are the only animals that have feathers. Feathers help birds fly, keep them warm, and can come in a variety of colors. Some birds, like peacocks, have bright and beautiful feathers to attract mates, while others, like owls, have feathers that help them blend in with their surroundings.

## Beaks and Bills

Birds have different types of beaks that are adapted to the food they eat. Hummingbirds have long, thin beaks for sipping **nectar**, while eagles have sharp, hooked beaks for tearing meat. Some birds, like pigeons, have beaks that are perfect for picking up seeds.

## Hollow Bones

Unlike mammals, birds have hollow bones that make their bodies lightweight, which is crucial for flying. This makes it easier for them to soar through the sky and travel long distances.

## Nesting

Birds build nests to lay their eggs and raise their chicks. Different birds build different types of nests. Robins build cup-shaped nests in trees, while penguins use stones to create nests on the ground.



A bird feeding its babies.

## Migration

Many birds migrate, which means they travel long distances to find food or warmer climates. For instance, some hummingbirds travel from Canada to Mexico and back.

## Singing and Communication

Birds are known for their beautiful songs, which they use to communicate with each other. Each bird species has its own **unique** song. Some birds, like parrots, can even mimic human speech.



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## Warm-Blooded Wonders

Birds are warm-blooded animals, just like humans. This means they can **regulate** their body temperature, keeping it constant even when the temperature around them changes. Unlike cold-blooded animals, like reptiles, birds don't rely on the environment to warm or cool their bodies.

Birds are incredible creatures with a wide range of characteristics that make them well-adapted to their environments. From feathers and beaks to hollow bones and migratory instincts, birds have developed amazing features that allow them to thrive in the diverse habitats they call home. The next time you see a bird soaring through the sky or hear its song in the trees, remember the unique qualities that make each bird a special member of the feathered family.

## Glossary

### Thrive

To grow, develop, and be healthy and successful.

*Example:* Birds thrive when they have enough food, a safe place to build nests, and can raise their chicks successfully.

### Nectar

A sweet liquid found in flowers that attracts pollinators like bees and hummingbirds.

*Example:* Hummingbirds drink nectar from flowers using their long beaks, and it gives them the energy they need to fly and thrive.

### Unique

Something that is one of a kind or different from everything else.

*Example:* Each bird has a unique song that helps them communicate with other birds, making it easy to identify their species.

### Regulate

To control or adjust something to make it work properly.

*Example:* Birds can regulate their body temperature, which means they can stay warm in cold weather and cool in hot weather, allowing them to thrive in various environments.



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1. Highlight the headings in the passage.

Use the headings to locate the information to answer the following questions.

2. Name a way birds are different from all other animals. (from the text)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain the purpose of different types of beaks. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do birds have hollow bones? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does the picture help you understand the text? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do birds migrate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use the glossary to answer the following questions.

7. What does **unique** mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Use **regulate** in a sentence. \_\_\_\_\_

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