

What Is a Bird?

Birds are a group of animals. Birds come in all shapes and sizes, but all birds are alike in some ways. What do all birds have in common?



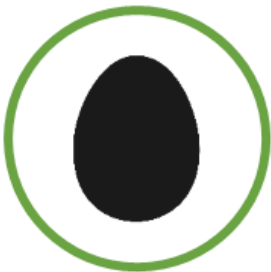
Feathers & Wings

Birds are the only animals with feathers covering their bodies. Some feathers help birds fly. Some feathers keep birds warm and protect them from water and snow. All birds have wings, but some birds cannot fly.



Beaks

Birds have beaks. Bird beaks look different depending on what a bird eats. Some birds have long, pointy beaks for catching fish. Some birds have short, strong beaks for cracking open seeds and nuts.



Eggs

All birds lay eggs. Baby birds grow inside the eggs. Baby birds use their beaks to crack open the hard eggshell when they are ready to hatch. Bird eggs come in all sizes and colors. The largest egg is the ostrich egg and the smallest egg is the hummingbird egg.



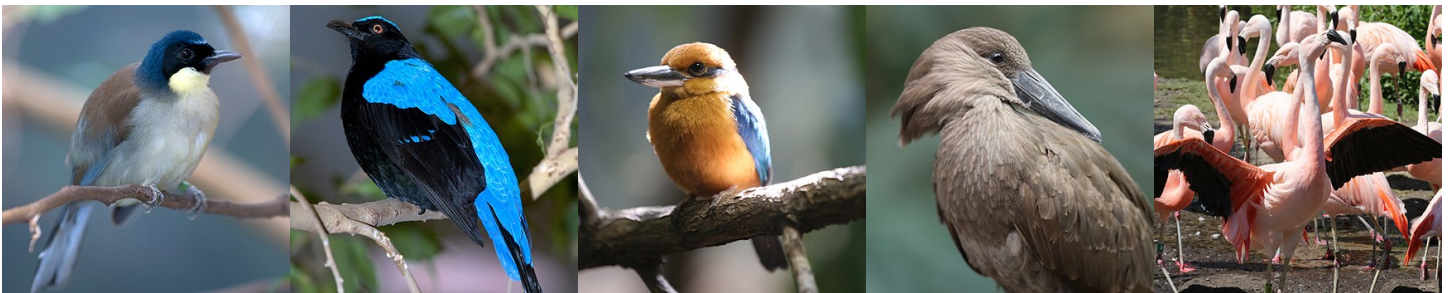
Warm-Blooded

Birds are warm-blooded, just like you! Their bodies stay the same temperature when it is hot or cold outside. When it is cold, birds can fluff their feathers or shiver their bodies to stay warm. When it is hot, birds can go swimming or stretch their wings to cool down.

What Is a Bird?

Each sentence is missing a word. Match each sentence to the correct word.

Sentence	Word
1.) All birds have _____ covering their bodies.	A.) beaks
2.) All birds have _____, but some birds cannot fly.	B.) eggs
3.) Bird _____ look different depending on what a bird eats.	C.) feathers
4.) Baby birds grow inside of _____.	D.) temperature
5.) Birds' bodies stay the same _____ when it is hot or cold outside.	E.) wings



ANSWERS: 1. C - feathers; 2. E - wings; 3. A - beaks; 4. B - eggs; 5. D - temperature