

Birds of the Night

by ReadWorks

What bird is shown here?



It's an owl!

Owls have big eyes. There are different kinds of owls. They can be different colors, like brown and white.

Owls look for food at night. They eat small animals. Some owls eat insects. Some owls eat mice. Some owls even eat other owls!



Great horned owls eat other owls.

Owls fly quietly. This helps them catch other animals. The animals can't hear the owls coming. Owls use their claws to grab the animals.

Be careful, small animals! There might be owls looking for dinner at night!



A Smart Bird

by ReadWorks



A crow

Have you ever seen or heard a crow? Adult crows have black feathers. They look shiny. Crows make a loud cry. This cry is called a caw. Sometimes they caw to let other crows know where they are.

Crows have big brains for their bodies. They are very smart. Crows can remember people's faces. Crows will stay away from people who have tried to catch them. They will even yell at the people. Other crows learn to stay away from these people, too.

Crows also like to play. People have seen a crow sled down a roof. It used a small lid to sled. Crows are very cool birds!

Learning about Birds

by ReadWorks

There are many kinds of birds all over the world. Maybe you've seen a seagull at the beach. Maybe you've seen pigeons in the city. Birds are amazing animals.

Birds lay eggs. Some eggs are pointy. Some eggs are round. Baby birds grow in the eggs. The babies come out of the eggs when they are big enough.



Ostriches lay the biggest bird eggs.

Birds have feathers. Feathers help birds fly. Feathers also help birds stay warm. Some birds live in very cold places. They fluff their feathers. This helps them stay warm.



Peacocks have beautiful feathers.

Birds have beaks. Some birds have long beaks. Other birds have short beaks. Birds can use their beaks to help them eat.



Pelicans have long beaks.

Birds have wings. Many birds use their wings to fly. Up, up, and away they go!



A seagull flies.

Birds That Cannot Fly

by ReadWorks

Many birds can fly. But some birds can't fly. Here are three kinds of birds that can't fly.

Penguins can't fly. But they can swim. They can also walk. Their walk looks kind of funny. Most penguins live in very cold places.



penguins

Ostriches can't fly. But they can run very fast. They can even kick really hard. Ostriches are the biggest birds on Earth. They live in dry, hot places.



an ostrich

Takah can't fly. But they do have wings they show off. They have bright blue and green feathers. These birds have big red beaks. They live in mountains.



takah

One Sneaky Bird

by ReadWorks

Do you know of any sneaky birds? One sneaky bird is the cuckoo! Here's what they do.

A mama cuckoo bird finds a nest. There are eggs but no birds in the nest. The eggs were laid by another kind of bird. The mama cuckoo bird swallows one of the eggs. She then lays one of her own eggs in the nest. The mama cuckoo bird flies away.



a cuckoo

The birds come back to their nest. They don't know what the mama cuckoo has done! The baby cuckoo hatches from the egg. The baby cuckoo wants all the space and food. So it pushes out any other babies or eggs from the nest. The birds take care of the baby cuckoo. They feed it a lot of food. The baby cuckoo is hungry!

Birds Help Us

by ReadWorks

Birds are very important animals. They help us in many ways. Here are some ways they help.

Farmers grow crops for people to eat. Some insects eat these crops. Some birds eat these insects. This keeps the insects from eating our crops. Thanks, birds!



Farmers grow crops like apples.

People drive cars on roads. Sometimes an animal will go onto a road. A car hits and kills the animal. Birds called vultures eat the bodies of the dead animal. This helps our roads stay clean. Good work, birds!



A vulture

Hummingbirds help plants make seeds. The seeds grow into new plants. Some of these plants grow in our gardens and parks. Nice job, hummingbirds!



A hummingbird

The Winning Shot

by ReadWorks



The soccer game was nearly over. Time had almost run out. The two teams were tied, one to one.

Amber kicked the ball. Oh no! She kicked it the wrong way. She kicked it toward the school building.

"What a bad kick," Amber thought.

But wait!

One of her teammates, John, jumped to stop the ball. The ball went off John and into the goal! Amber's team won the game. Hooray! It was not a bad kick, after all.

Bright As the Sun

by ReadWorks



Sunflowers are big, beautiful plants. Many are bright and yellow, just like the sun. Some sunflowers are orange or brown or red. Sunflowers grow in fields. They need sunshine and warmth to grow from seed to flower. And sunflowers need lots of water!

Parts of a Tree

by ReadWorks



Trees are a kind of plant. They grow like some other plants do.
What are the parts of a tree?

A tree has leaves. The leaves help make food for the tree.

A tree has branches. Branches give trees their shape.

A tree has bark. Bark is hard skin on the outside of the tree.

A tree has roots. Roots take in water for the tree. How are trees like other plants?

How Trees Help

by ReadWorks



Photo Credit: Angelo DeSantis

Did you know that trees are helpers? Trees are plants that clean our air.

There is a gas in the air that can be dangerous to people. Tree leaves take in that gas. The leaves use that gas to make food for the tree. Then the leaves give off a clean gas. The clean gas goes into the air for us to breathe.

Trees also give us shade on hot days. Trees give us food to eat. Trees give some animals homes. Thank you, trees!

How Plants Get Water and Food

by ReadWorks



Most plants have roots. Those roots grow down into the dirt. The roots take in water from the dirt. The roots also take in minerals and other things from the dirt.

A plant uses those things to help it make food. The water and food then move up the plant's stem. They move to other parts of the plant. This helps the plant grow well.

How Plants Work

by ReadWorks



Every part of a plant has a job to do.

The **leaves** make food for the plant. Leaves use sunlight to make food.

The **stem** holds the plant up. Without a strong stem, the plant would fall down.

The **roots** grow underground. Roots take in water for the plant.

Flowers look pretty, but they have a job too! They make sure new plants will grow. Seeds grow inside flowers. The seeds will fall to the ground. Many of the seeds will grow into new plants.

All Kinds of Plants

by Kate Paixão



Plants come in many sizes and shapes.

Some are big. Giant sequoia trees can grow to be 275 feet tall. Other plants are small. Some mosses are so small you cannot see them.

Some plants live in dry places. Cactus plants live in hot, dry deserts. Some plants live in wet places. Seaweed floats in the ocean.

Some plants make their own food. Most plants use energy from the sun to make food. Others catch food. The Venus flytrap catches flies to eat.

Why the Spider Has Eight Long, Skinny Legs

by Linda Ruggieri



Image by CESAR AUGUSTO RAMIREZ VALLEJO from Pixabay

Anansi is a spider. He has eight legs. He makes a web. Here, a spider sits on its web.

This is a story told in Africa about Anansi, the clever spider.

Rabbit was cooking greens. He invited Anansi to eat. Anansi liked to eat. But he did not like to help cook.

Anansi told Rabbit, "Tie one end of my web to your pot. I will tie the other end to one of my legs. Tug on the web when the food is ready. I will return."

Anansi saw Monkey, Hog, and Squirrel. He saw Hare, Mouse, Turtle, and Fox. They all were cooking. They all invited him to eat.

Anansi had eight legs. He tied one leg to each animal's pot. "Tug when the food is ready," he told all eight animals.

Soon, Anansi felt eight pulls. Tug, tug, tug, tug, tug, tug, tug, tug! The food was ready!

Anansi ate a lot. He was happy. But the tugs made his legs long and skinny!

Watch the Tennis Ball

by ReadWorks



Tennis is a sport. Players use a racket to hit a small ball. The ball moves through the air. The player swings the racket.

When the racket and ball meet, they collide. The ball and racket push on each other. The ball changes direction. It flies through the air.

The racket keeps moving. It does not fly through the air. Why? The player is holding it.

Racing on Ice

by Kate Paixão



Do you like riding on a sled? Sleds are good for moving across snow or ice. Some people like to race on sleds. Here are two sports that use sleds.

Bobsled racers sit on seats inside their sled. To start, racers run and push the bobsled. The sled heads down the hill. That is when the racers jump in.

In luge (*looj*) racing, people lie on their backs on the sled. Racers start by pushing on the ground with their hands. Then they zip down the hill—feet first!

Going to the Beach!

by ReadWorks



Going to the beach is lots of fun. You can swim in the ocean. You can play in the sand. You can run around or you can lie down.

The beach is made of sand. It feels funny between your toes. You can dig in the sand. You can even build a sandcastle!

The beach has sea shells. You can find shells in the sand. Some are small and gray. Others are big and colorful. It's fun to search for pretty shells.

At the beach, the ocean water moves in waves. The water comes to the beach. Then the water moves away.

How Is a Soccer Ball Made?

by Rachelle Kreisman



Soccer is played with a special ball. People kick the ball to score a goal. The players aim in the direction of a net.

How is the ball made? A machine cuts a cloth. It makes thirty-two panels. Workers sew the panels together. Then a rubber bladder is placed inside. The bladder looks like a balloon. Air is pumped into the bladder. The ball puffs up. Now it is ready to play soccer!

Who Can Pull Harder?

by ReadWorks



Tug-of-war is a game. It takes a lot of energy. Two teams play. They face each other.

Members of both teams hold on to one rope. Each team pulls the rope. The team that pulls harder moves the rope.

Wait! The other team can move the rope too. If the other team pulls just as hard, the rope stops. Then they may pull the rope in the other direction.

The teams move the rope back and forth. One big pull can end the game. The stronger team wins.

A Busy Bird

by ReadWorks



Carlos walked outside. He looked at his favorite tree. He saw a bird in the tree.

The bird was busy. The bird had twigs in its beak. The bird put the twigs on a branch. Then the bird flew away.

It came back with more twigs. The twigs were in a pile. The pile was getting bigger. Carlos thought for a minute. Then he knew what he saw. The bird was building a nest!