



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Bird Bonanza 4-8 Classroom Activities

Extreme Bird-facts Quiz

OBJECTIVE

The student will identify various bird facts by participating in a fact-finding game.

ACTION

1. Divide class into pairs or cooperative learning groups. Introduce the contest “Extreme Birds” by distributing the funsheet. Explain that this activity is a game with prizes for the winners.
2. At “Go!”, give students 20 minutes to fill in the blanks. This first try will be for “known” knowledge only. After 20 minutes, take a class survey (by show of hands) to determine how many questions were answered out of the 15. For example, how many answered number 1? Number 2? Tell students NOT to share answers, the game is not over.
3. After tallying results, give students the funsheet as homework for overnight or the weekend. Students may use the Internet, library, or experts to find all the answers. Students must cite their sources.
4. At the next class, take another survey and tally “researched” results. Go through each question and correct as a class. Conduct survey again. This will be the “corrected” survey.
5. Compare survey data from “known” survey, “researched” survey, and “corrected” survey. Chart as bar graph either by each question or by correct answers. Were some questions more difficult to answer than others?
6. Reward students who improved the most, who answered the most questions correctly, or who knew the most answers on the first day.

ANSWERS

1. Arctic terns fly from pole to pole, a roundtrip of about 22,000 mi (36,000 km)
2. Vervain hummingbirds living in West Indies lay eggs that can be as small as 0.39 in (10 mm) and weigh 0.0132 oz. (0.375 gm)
3. An ostrich egg is 6.5 by 5 inches (16.5 x 12.7 cm) and weighs as much as 4.35 lb (1.97 kg)
4. The little spotted kiwi of New Zealand. Its 9 oz (255 gm) egg is 25% of the adult female's body weight of 2.6 lb. (1.2 kg)
5. Some believe the elephant bird was the heaviest (900 lb) but the extinct *Dromornis stirtoni* of Australia weighed 100 lb.(45 kg) more at almost 1,000 lb. (454 kg)
6. The extinct giant moa of New Zealand stood over 12 ft (3.7 m) tall and weighed 500 lb. (227kg)
7. North African ostrich males can be 9 ft. tall and weigh 345 lb.
8. Male bee hummingbirds that live in Cuba can be just 2.25 in (5.7 cm) long and weigh 0.056 oz.(1.6 gm)
9. It was believed that *Archaeopteryx* was the most primitive bird (150 million-year-old fossil) but in 1984 scientists found an older fossil in western Texas. Named *Protoavis*, the fossil was found in rocks that were 225 million years old.
10. The eye of an ostrich may be 2 in (5 cm) in diameter. The eyes of eagles, hawks, and owls are large in proportion to their body size, often larger in size than a human's eyeball.
11. Wandering albatross has a wingspan of 11.9 ft (3.6 m)
12. The peregrine falcon. The fastest document speed was 117 mph (188 km/hr) in a steep dive.
13. Emperor penguins are capable of swimming in bursts of speed of 15 mph (24 km/hr)

ANSWERS CONTINUED

14. In 1967 an airline pilot spotted a group of 30 swans flying over Great Britain at 27,000 ft. (8,230 m).
15. The emperor penguin can dive to at least 1,772 ft. (540 m) and stay submerged up to 18 minutes.

MATERIALS

For each student:

- copy of *Extreme Bird Quiz* Funsheet
- pencil
- access to Internet or library

For the class:

- prizes for first, second, third place winners (ribbon or other item)

Extreme Bird Quiz Funsheet

Use the spaces provided to answer the following questions about birds. After answering these questions in class, use the library, internet, or other resources to verify your answers. Cite your sources!

What bird...

1. has the longest migration route (roundtrip) _____
2. has the smallest egg _____
3. has the largest egg _____
4. has the largest egg to its body weight _____
5. was the heaviest ever to live _____
6. was the tallest ever to live _____
7. is the tallest bird living today _____
8. is the smallest bird today _____
9. is the earliest known bird _____
10. has the largest eyes _____
11. has the longest wingspan _____
12. is the fastest flyer _____
13. is the fastest swimmer _____
14. is the highest flyer? _____
15. is the deepest diver? _____