

BIRDS



Birds:

- have a backbone
- are warm-blooded
- have wings
- have feathers
- breathe with lungs
- hatch from eggs

THIS PLACE IS FOR THE BIRDS

Birds are the only creatures on Earth that have feathers. They live in lots of different habitats all around the world. Many birds migrate, or travel to warmer areas, when the weather changes. However, some birds never leave their living places. One kind of bird called homing pigeons are able to find their way home from long distances away. In ancient times, it was popular to tie a message to a pigeon and use them to deliver special messages.

All birds:

- have a backbone
- are warm-blooded
- have wings
- have feathers
- breathe with lungs
- hatch from eggs



Many of a bird's bones are hollow to keep them weightless so they can fly through the air. All birds have feathers. There are different kinds of feathers. Some feathers are used for balancing and steering during flight. Feathers also help birds stay warm.

Birds have different shapes and sizes of bills or beaks depending on how it's used. For example, a duck's bill is wide and flat for tearing plants in the water. Woodpeckers have a long and pointed beak to chisel into trees. Some birds have a short bill to crack seeds open. Others have a very long and thin beak to grab a fish underwater.

Some birds, like ducks, have webbed feet to swim in the water. Others have toes to grab onto branches or prey. A bird's diet is mainly insects, seeds, and fruit. Many species eat worms when they are available. Waterfowl, like ducks and geese, eat plants and grasses that grow in the water.

All of our feathered friends lay eggs. Many birds build nests to keep their eggs safe from predators. Nests are made from a variety of items including grass, twigs, hay, or whatever can be found in the environment. Some birds make nests on the ground.

EXAMPLES:

The Ostrich is the largest bird in the world. Although it can not fly, its powerful legs give it the strength to run at fast speeds for short periods.



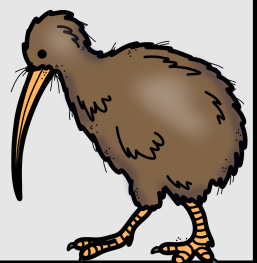
The hummingbird is the smallest bird. It can beat its wings as fast as 50 times per second. During migration, they can fly for 500 miles nonstop.

Flamingos hold their bent beaks upside down while feeding. The pink color of their feathers comes from their diet of mostly shrimp, plankton, and algae.



Parrots are colorful and playful pets that can learn to say around 50 words.

Kiwis can not fly. These endangered birds live in New Zealand and have feathers that feel more like hair.



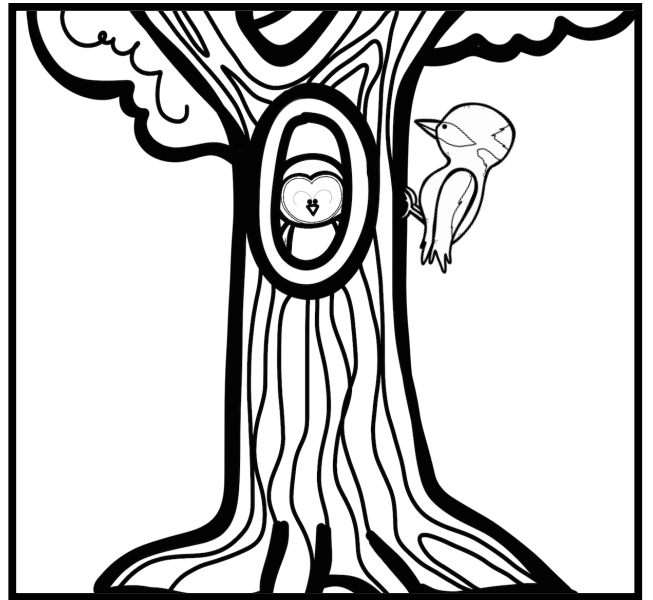
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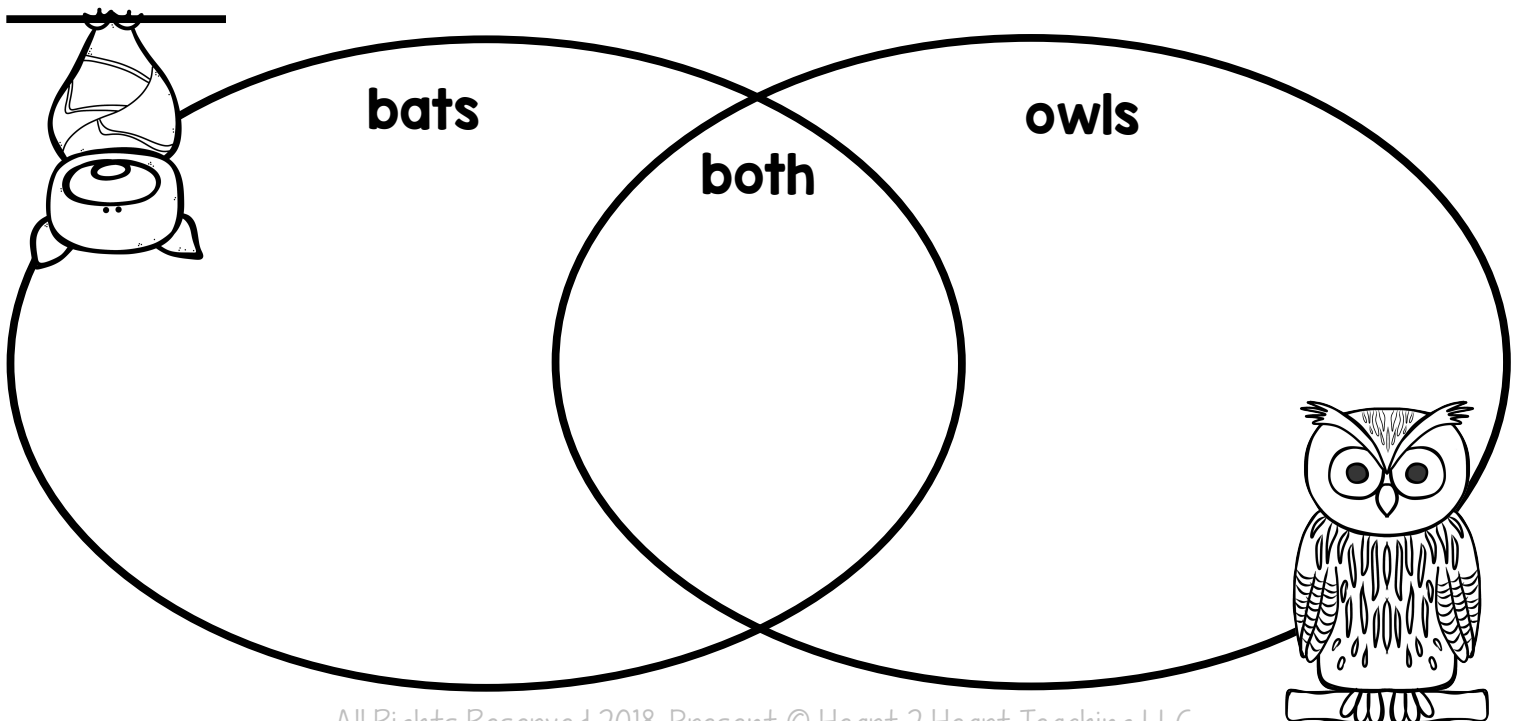
Why do birds have different types of bills (beaks)? Give an example.

Name the five characteristics of all birds:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Compare and contrast bats to owls using the Venn diagram.



BIRDS

Circle all the birds below:

parrot

owl

goose

duck

turtle

eagle

jaguar

shark

flamingo

turkey

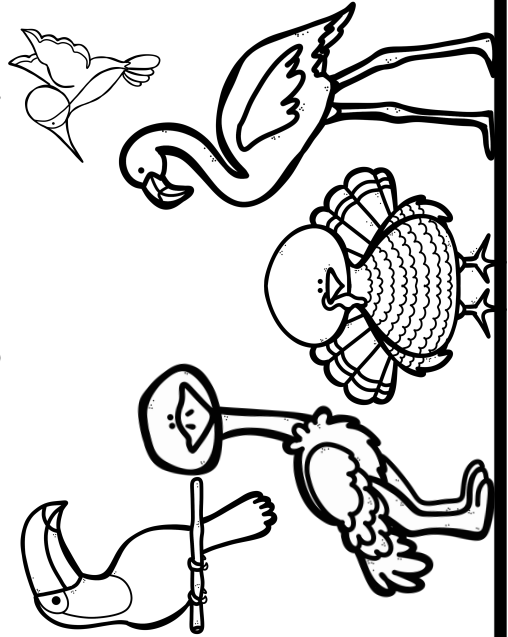
kiwi

penguin

What do birds eat?

Name of your favorite bird:

Find the flamingo and color it pink.



Why do birds have different types of feathers?



Name five characteristics of all birds:



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

BIRDS



Decide if each statement below is true or false:

1. All birds start life as an egg.

2. Many of a bird's bones are hollow.

3. All birds can fly.

4. Most birds make nests in trees, bushes, or on the ground.

5. Many birds migrate to warmer areas in the winter.

6. Birds are the only creatures on Earth that have feathers.

Compare and contrast a hummingbird to an ostrich using the Venn diagram.

