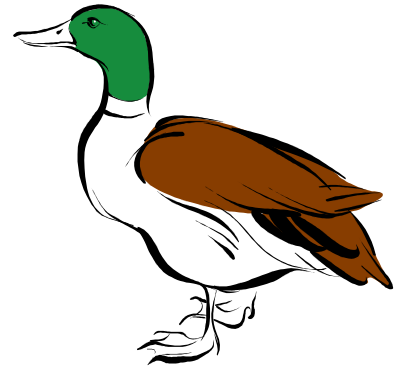


Ducks

Ducks are birds. They are normally found in places with water, like ponds, streams and rivers. They are related to geese and swans. The duck is the smallest of them all. Ducks also have shorter necks and wings and a smaller body. They can live for up to 12 years.



1. Where can ducks normally be found?

☐

In places with water like ponds, streams and rivers.

☐

In the desert.

☐

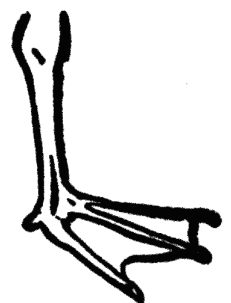
In woods and forests.

☐

In towns and villages.

2. Which other birds are related to ducks?

Ducks have webbed feet which act like paddles when they are swimming. A duck waddles instead of walks because of its webbed feet. A duck's feet cannot feel cold because its feet have no nerves or blood vessels! This is very useful for when it needs to swim in icy cold water.



3. Why do ducks waddle?

☐

Because they have short wings.

☐

Because they have webbed feet.

☐

Because they are too fat.

☐

Because they have long feathers.

4. What makes it possible for a duck to swim in icy cold waters?

Another special thing that ducks have is water-proof feathers. There is a special gland that produces oil near the duck's tail which spreads and covers the outer coat of the duck's feathers, making it water-proof. Under their water-proof coats are fluffy and soft feathers to keep the ducks warm.

5. What is special about a duck's feathers?

☐

They are shiny.

☐

They are water-proof.

☐

They are strong.

☐

The are fluffy.

6. What keeps ducks warm?

Ducks keep clean by preening themselves. They do this by being able to turn their heads completely backwards, and putting their beaks into the feathers on their wings, breast and back. They preen themselves very often.

7. How do ducks keep clean?

☐

They preen themselves.

☐

They roll in puddles.

☐

They have a shower.

☐

They stand in the rain.

8. What special thing can ducks do with their heads?

Ducks are *omnivores*. This means that they eat both plants and other animals. Some ducks enjoy eating grass, weeds, small fish, snails and worms. Others may prefer insects, seeds, grains and berries. Sometimes, people may visit a duck pond and feed the ducks bread. Unfortunately, bread is not a very good food for ducks and too much can make them fat and unhealthy.

9. Do omnivores eat plants?

10. Which of these foods is unhealthy for ducks?

☐

grass

☐

weeds

☐

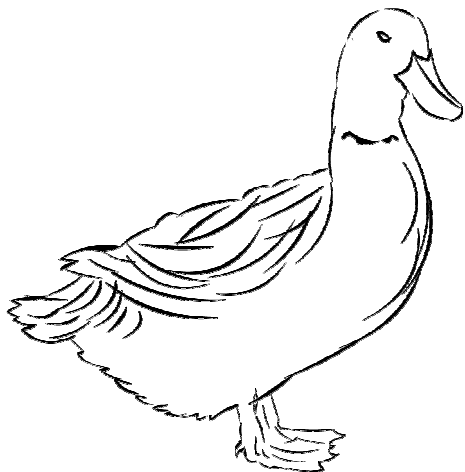
bread

☐

small fish

Ducks, like other animals, are useful to human beings. They provide us with eggs and meat to eat. Some ducks provide us with feathers which we use for stuffing quilts and pillows. The feathers are usually from the Eider duck.

11. Why are ducks useful to human beings?



Carefully sketch a picture of the duck on the left.