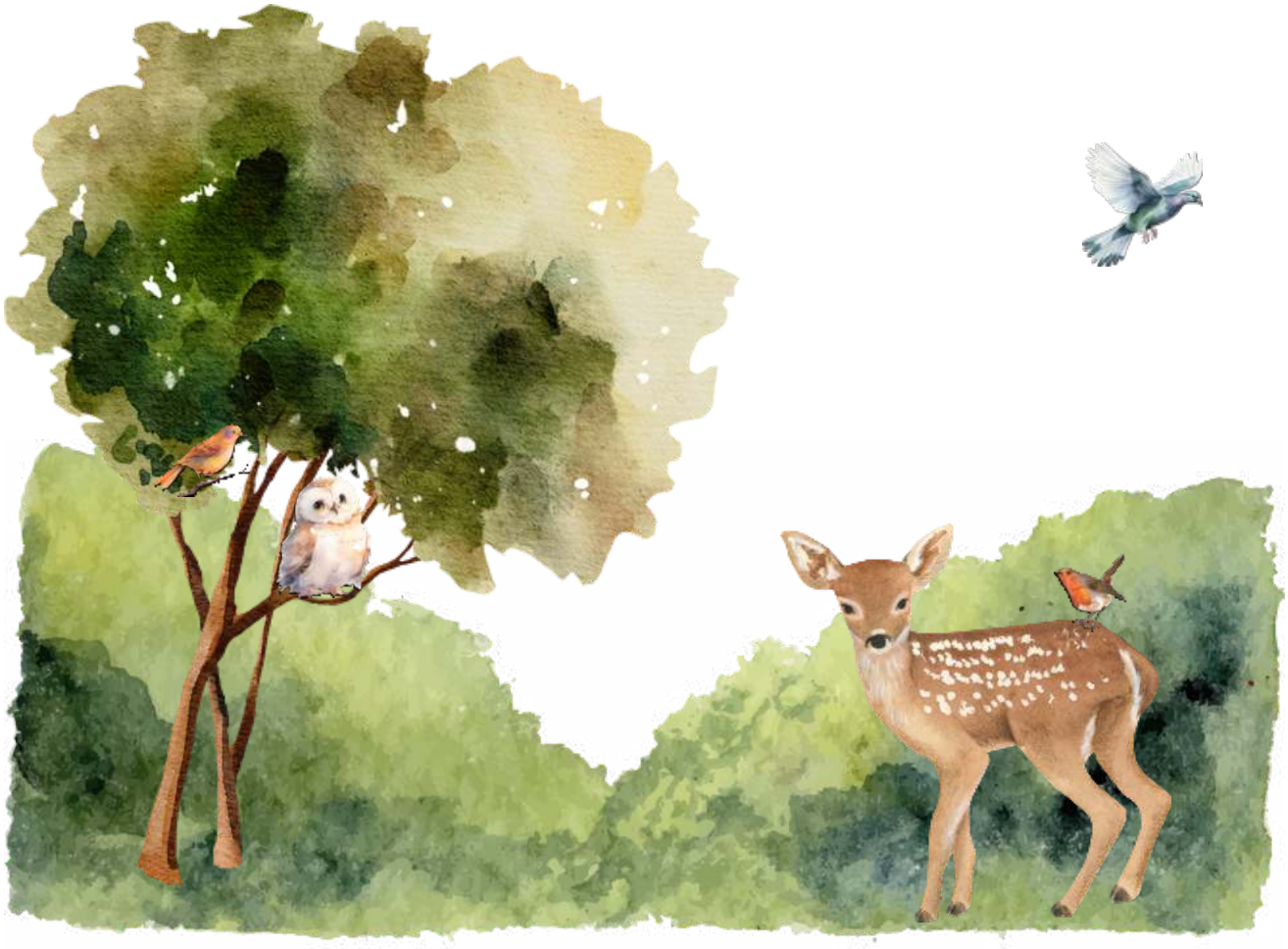
Homeschool Unit Study on Birds

Grades PreK-5



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Read to Learn



Read the story below and then answer the comprehension questions on the next page.

The journey of the tiny house sparrow began in a cozy nest made of dry grass, lovingly lined with feathers, hair, string, and paper. The nest was nestled in dense hedges along a lovely lane in Hampshire's countryside. Both parents took turns incubating the dark brown speckled eggs until day 14- hatching day!



The tough shell was no match for the tiny bird's temporary egg tooth, a small bump on the tip of its bill that would be reabsorbed after hatching. After a few days of rocking back and forth like a boat on the sea, a small crack appeared. The hatchling pushed and wiggled until it finally broke through, gasping for air.



Fourteen days later, the little sparrow began to fledge. Its soft, brown feathers resembled the bark of the tree. Even though it couldn't feed itself yet, its dedicated father continued to feed it diligently. With each passing day, the sparrow grew stronger and more curious. It chirped and sang like a miniature orchestra, hopping around the nest to practice balance and coordination."

After a couple of weeks of practice jumps out of the nest, the fledgling was finally ready for its first solo flight. It flapped its wings with great effort, resembling a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, and soared into the sky.

Despite the strong winds, the sparrow soared higher and higher like a rocket headed for the moon. It confidently flew over fields and through forests, enjoying the warmth of the sun on its feathers and the thrill of embarking on a new journey in life.



Name: _____

Reading Comprehension

Tick the true statements and cross out the false ones.

1. Both parents took turns incubating the eggs. ☐
2. The little sparrow fed itself when it began to fledge. ☐
3. The fledgling practiced balance and coordination by hopping. ☐
4. It was ready for its first flight two weeks after hatching. ☐

5. Explain what is meant by the following description:

"Its soft, brown feathers resembled the bark of the tree."

_____

_____

6. Answer the question below using complete sentences.

How important is the role of parents in the development of birds, and what are some of the responsibilities they have in raising their young

_____

_____

What challenges do baby birds face during their early days of life?

_____

_____



Name: _____

Reading Comprehension
ON BIRDS



Birds have several distinguishing features. They are warm-blooded, have backbones (vertebrates), are upright on two legs, lay eggs and have feathers. In fact they are the only animal to have feathers.

Feathers help birds fly and regulate their body temperature. Most birds can fly, except a small few, such as penguins, kiwis, ostriches emus and cassowaries. The birds that can fly have hollow-like bones to make them weigh less during flight.

Bird beaks come in a variety of shapes and sizes, reflective of their diets. Some eat meat, while others eat seeds, fruits, nuts, nectar or fish. Birds do not have teeth.

Birds are closely related to reptiles and are believe to have descended from dinosaurs, specifically two-legged dinosaurs called theropods, which included Tyrannosaurus rex.

The largest living bird in the world is the ostrich. The smallest is a variety of hummingbird.

1 Why are bird bones hollow? _____

_____

2 Explain why having feathers help to regulate a bird's body temperature: _____

_____

_____

3 What similarities do birds and reptiles share? _____

_____

_____

4 Think of a specific bird species, describe its beak shape and size and explain a logical reason for it:

_____

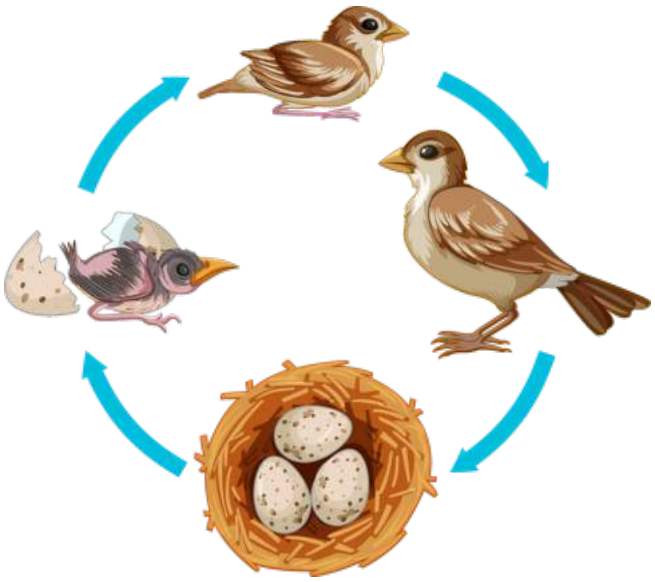
_____

_____

BIRD LIFE CYCLE

Label the different stages of the bird life cycle:

adult bird	hatchling	baby bird	egg



Write about the life cycle of a bird:

Name: _____

What's so special about BIRDS?



Describe 5 features of birds:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

What is the largest living bird species?

_____

What is the smallest living bird species?

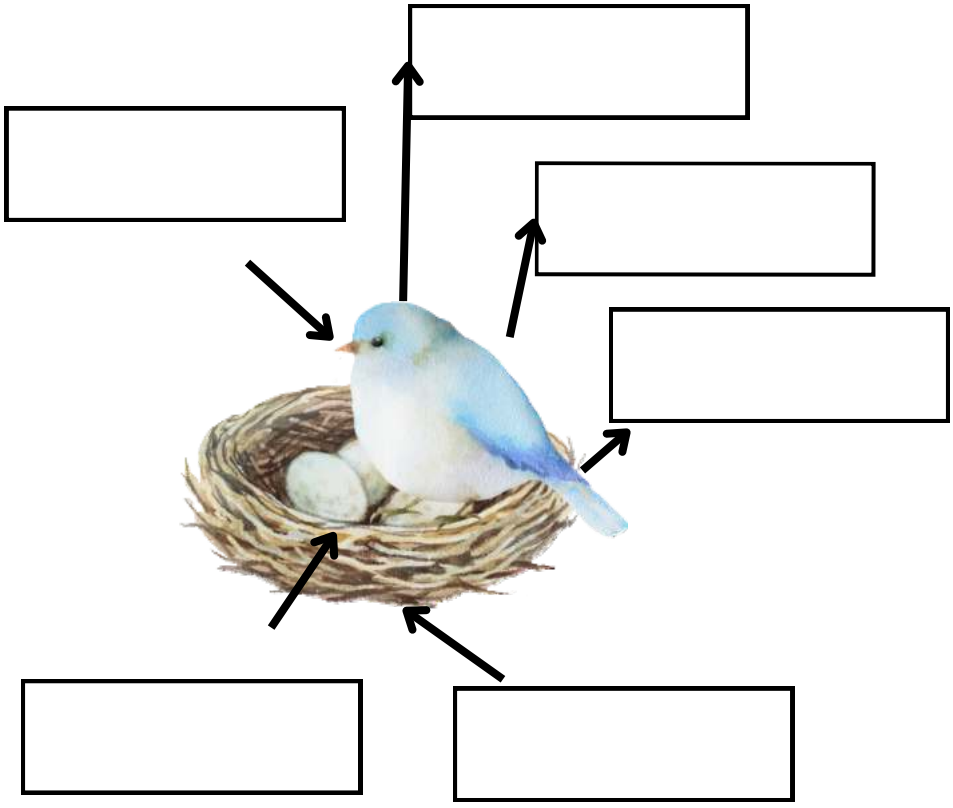
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How many bird species can you list?

Name: _____

Label the Bird Parts

Cut and paste the words to label the bird.

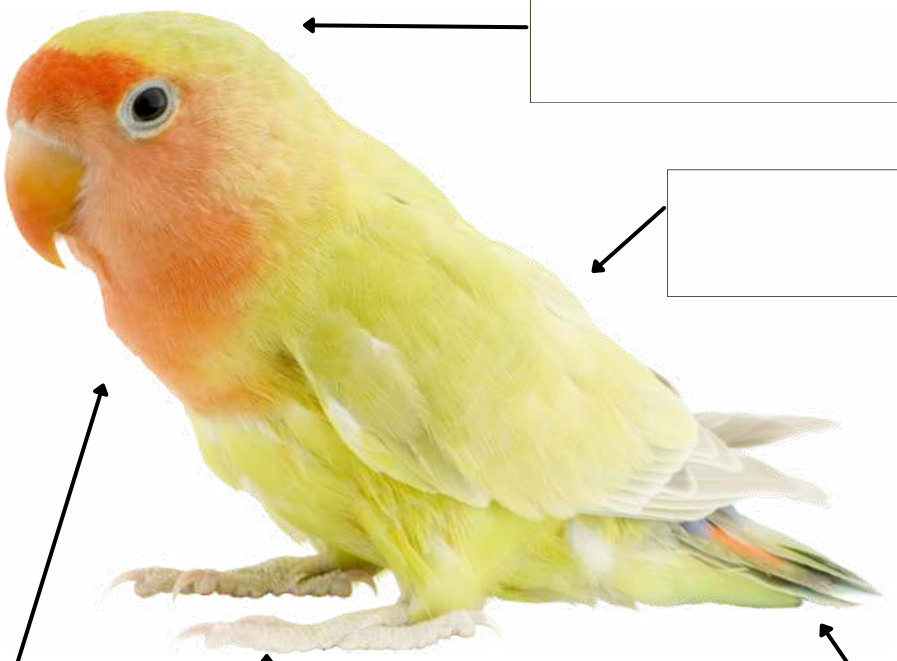


eggs	tail
feathers	beak
nest	eye

Name: _____

More Label the Bird Parts

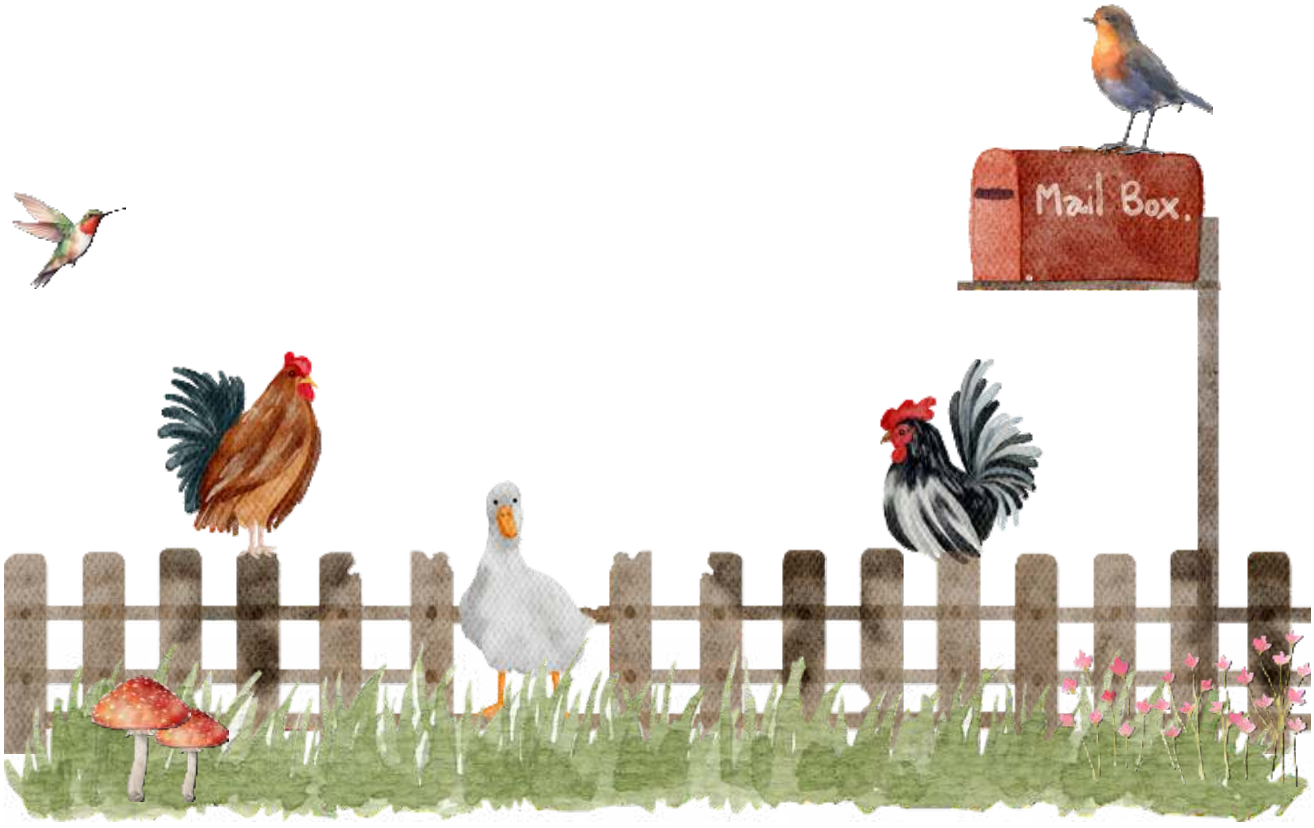
Cut and paste the parts of the bird in the correct place.



wing	foot	crown
tail	bill	chest

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ANIMAL RESEARCH: Book on Birds



Name _____

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Name: _____

K-W-L CHART

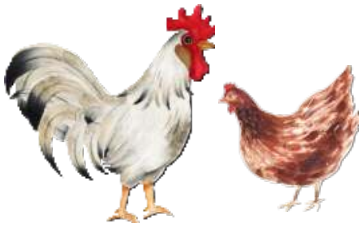
Find books about birds. Spend a few minutes flipping through the books. Then fill in the first two columns of the chart below. Fill in the last column after you have done your research.

WHAT I KNOW	WHAT I WANT TO KNOW	WHAT I LEARNED

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Name: _____



BIRDS

Describe the animal by writing a sentence or drawing a picture in each box.

BIRDS CAN...

BIRDS HAVE...

BIRDS ARE...

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT BIRDS

What are birds?

Where do they live?

What do they eat?



Name: _____

ALL ABOUT BIRDS

What parts do they have?

What can they do?

How do they move?



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Name: _____

FUN FACTS ABOUT BIRDS

Fill in the shapes with information that you find.



Name: _____

LIFE CYCLE OF A BIRD

Paste a picture of the life cycle of a bird.

Describe the life cycle of a bird.

Name: _____



NEW VOCABULARY

What new words have you learned as you do your research? Write them below.

WORD	MEANING	PICTURE

Name: _____

ANIMAL RESEARCH REPORT

TOPIC: BIRDS



Key Points:

Summary:

Fact Sheet



The Penguin

Write down any facts you know about penguins.

Write down a question you have about penguins.



Fact Sheet



The Puffin

Write down any facts you know about puffins.

Write down a question you have about puffins.



Fact Sheet



Hummingbird

Write down any facts you know about hummingbirds.

Write down a question you have about hummingbirds.



Fact Sheet



The Eagle

Write down any facts you know about eagles.

Write down a question you have about eagles.



Fact Sheet



The Owl

Write down any facts you know about owls.

Write down a question you have about owls.



Fact Sheet



The Parrot

Write down any facts you know about parrots.

Write down a question you have about parrots.



Fact Sheet



The Ostrich

Write down any facts you know about ostriches.

Write down a question you have about ostriches.



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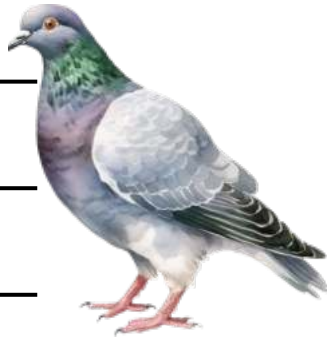
Fact Sheet

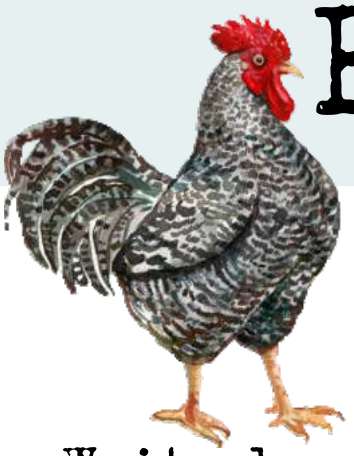


The Pigeon

Write down any facts you know about pigeons.

Write down a question you have about pigeons.





Fact Sheet

The Chicken

Write down any facts you know about chicken.

Write down a question you have about chicken.



Fact Sheet



The Stork

Write down any facts you know about storks.

Write down a question you have about storks.



Fact Sheet



Woodpecker

Write down any facts you know about woodpeckers.

Write down a question you have about woodpeckers.



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Opinion Writing



Which bird is the best: Eagle, Owl, Woodpecker, or Ostrich?
Give 3 reasons for your opinion and sum it up in the conclusion.

Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

Conclusion

Name: _____

Type of Birds

Write the names of the birds on the boxes below.

hummingbird | goldfinch | woodpecker

owl | cardinal











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Name: _____

All About Birds Quiz

Have a research scavenger hunt and answer the following questions about birds.

1. What makes flamingos pink?

_____

2. Approximately how many species of birds are there?

_____

3. Why do birds flock together?

_____

4. Which bird can be found on every continent except Antartica?

_____

5. Which bird has eyes 5 times bigger than the eyes of humans?

_____

6. How high can a penguin jump?

_____

7. Which bird can reach speeds of 185 mph while diving?

_____

Name: _____

All About Birds Quiz

Have a research scavenger hunt and answer the following questions about birds.

1. Do birds have teeth? How do they eat?

2. What is the smallest bird? What is the largest bird?

3. Name a bird species that covers itself in ants.

4. Which bird can sleep with one eye open?

5. Which bird is sometimes called an "honorary mammal"?

6. What is believed to be the first domesticated bird?

7. What is the only known bird species that can catch each other's yawns?



My State Bird



Did you know that each U.S. state has its own state bird?
Find out the state bird for your state and fill in the boxes below.

What is the name of your state bird?

Write one fun fact about your state bird.

What color is your state bird?

Draw and color or paste a picture of your state bird.

Name: _____

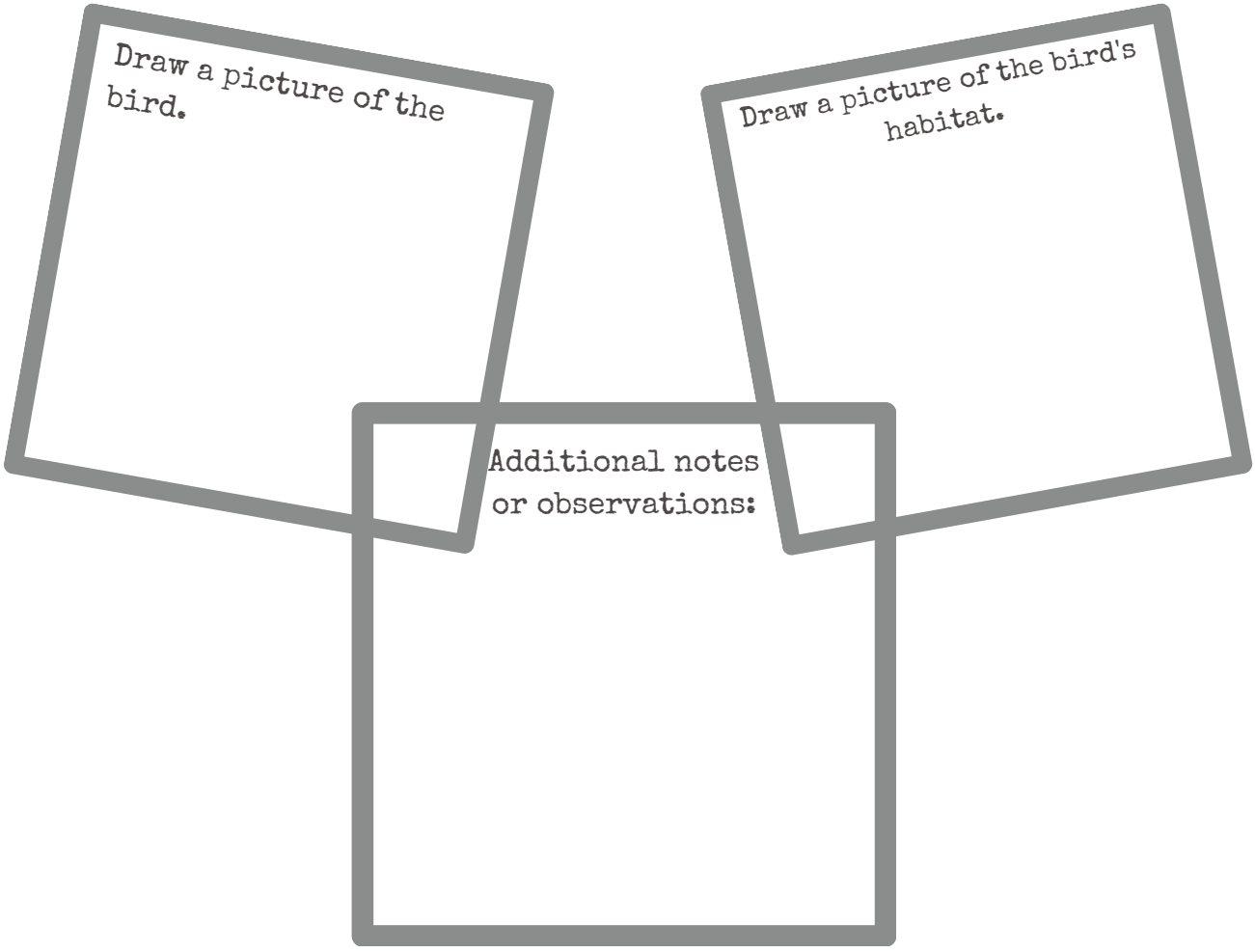
Birdwatching Journal

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ Season: _____

Name of Bird: _____ Scientific Name: _____

Draw a picture of the bird.



Describe the bird's actions: _____

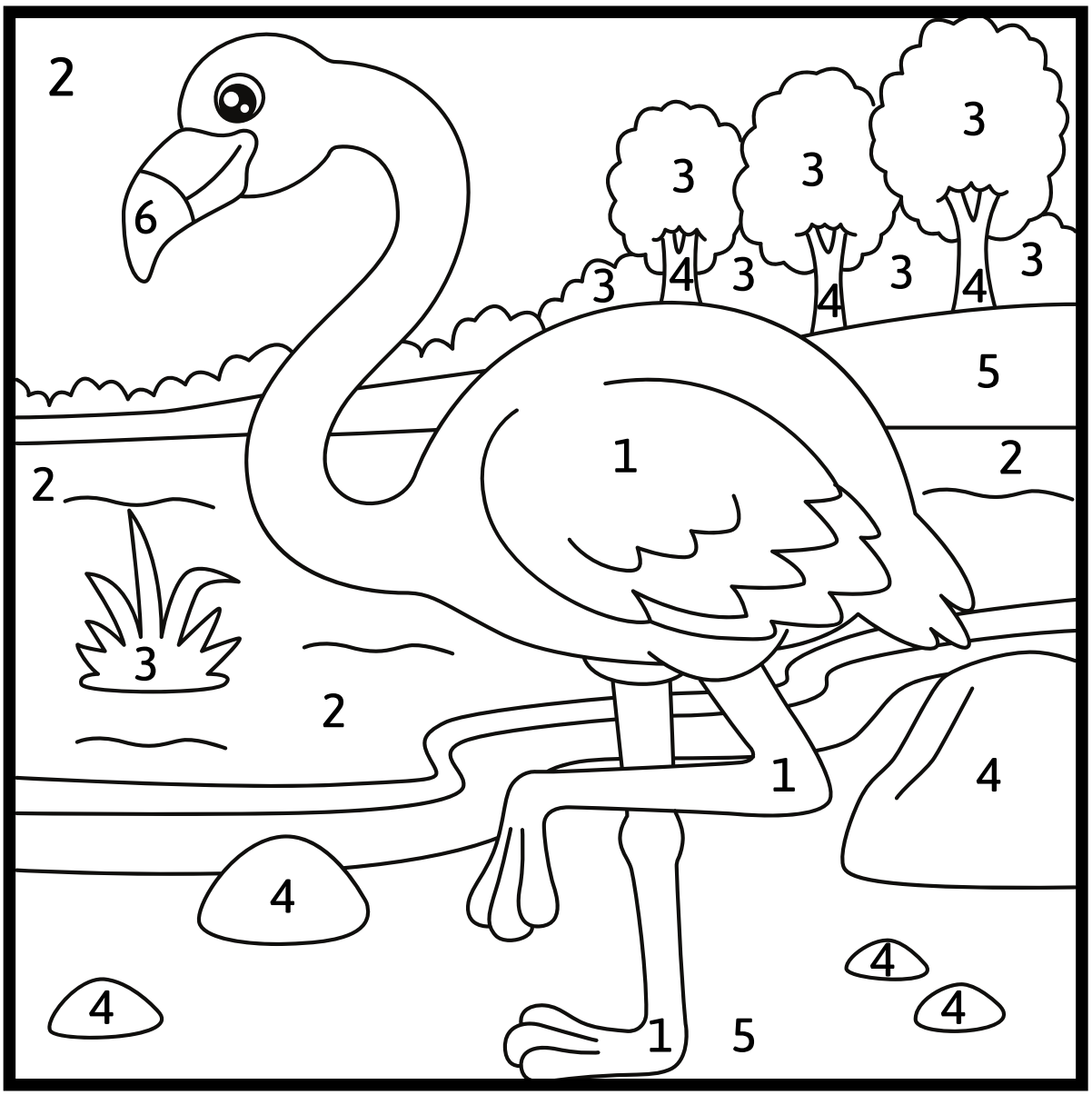
_____

_____

Name: _____

Flamingo Color by Number

Use the key at the bottom of the page to color the picture.



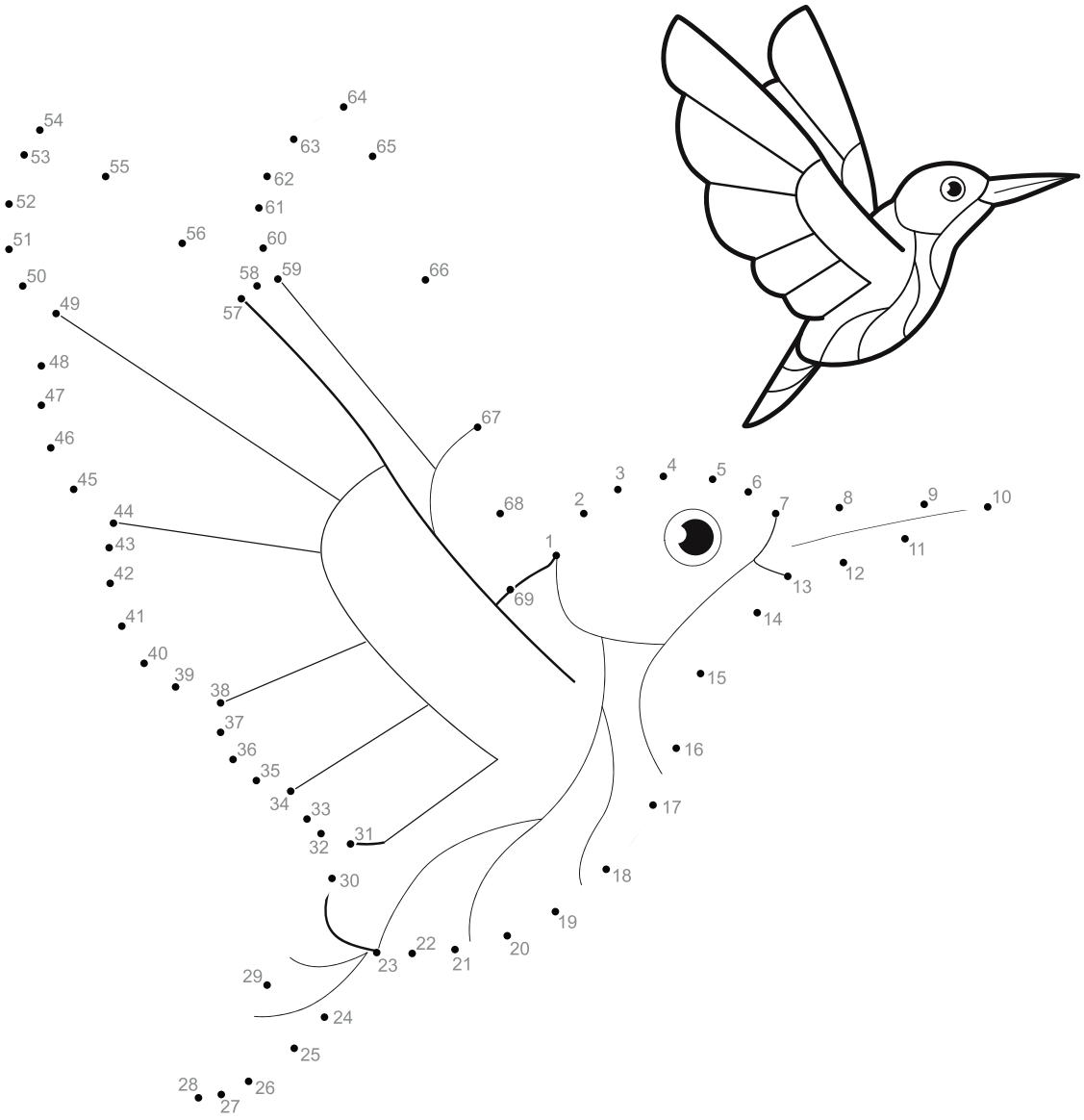
1. pink 2. blue 3. green
4. gray 5. brown 6. black

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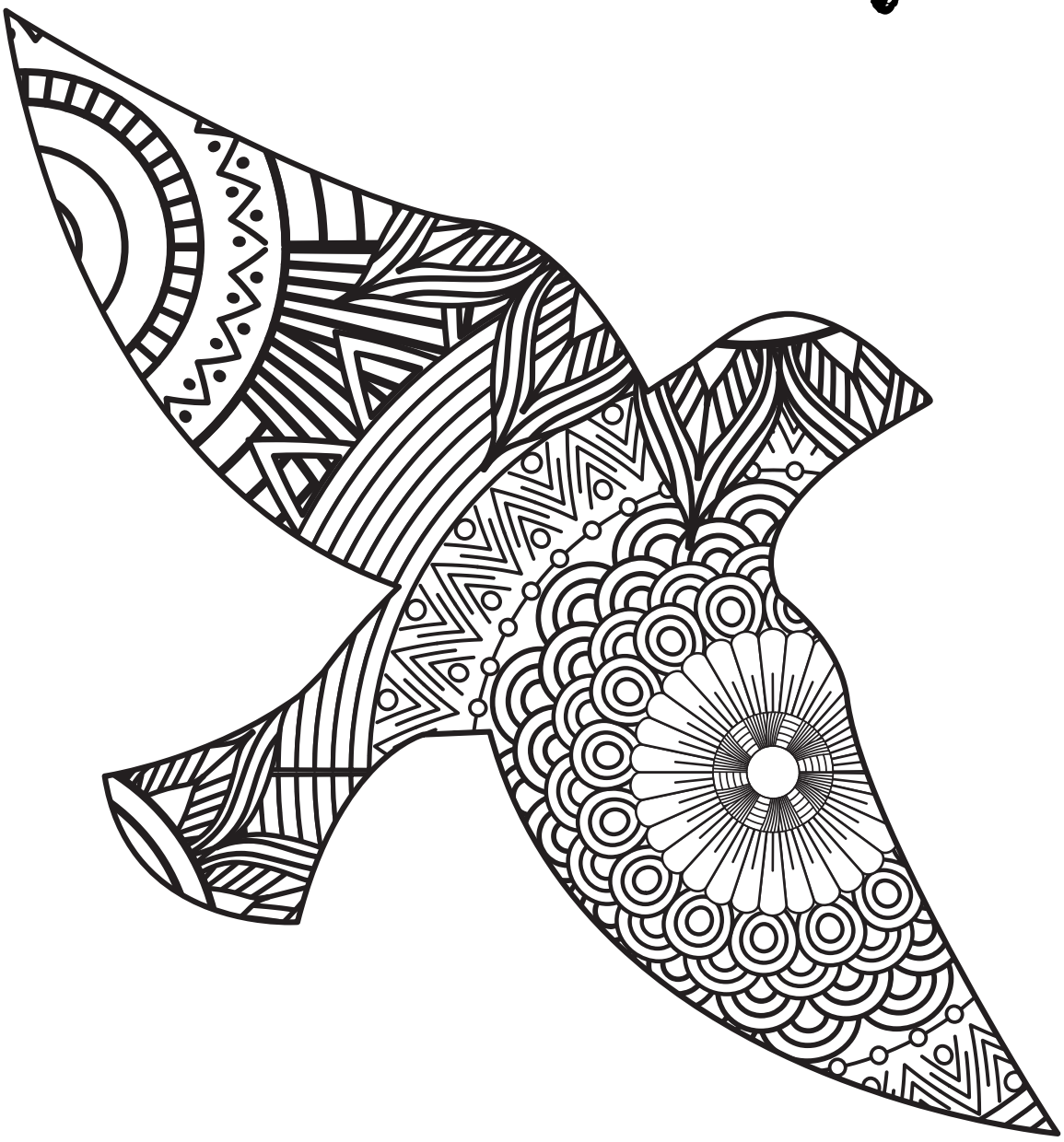
Name:

Count the numbers!

Can you count the numbers as you create the bird? How many numbers are there?



Explore Creativity



NAME: _____

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