



Guess what, there's a bird that looks majestic and elegant, just like it stepped out of a fairy tale! That's right, we're talking about the heron, a tall and slender bird with a long, pointy beak. These beautiful creatures come in many different colors, from pure white to dark blue, and they have long, thin legs that they use to wade through water. The heron's wings are broad and rounded, allowing it to glide gracefully through the sky.

Gliding from the sky, they dip their beaks into water and grab a tasty meal. Herons are carnivores, which means they love to eat meat. Their diet mainly consists of fish, but they also enjoy chomping on frogs, small mammals, and even other birds! Their long, sharp beak is perfect for catching and eating their prey.

From fish-filled waters, let's move to where these fascinating birds choose to live. Herons can be found in wetlands all over the world, from the swamps of Florida to the rivers of Africa. They build their nests high up in trees, safe from predators and close to their food source. These nests can be quite large, often housing several heron chicks at once.



Speaking of chicks, let's take a quick peek into the life cycle of a heron. After a female heron lays her eggs, both parents take turns sitting on the nest to keep the eggs warm. When the chicks hatch, they're cared for by both parents until they're old enough to leave the nest and fend for themselves. And guess what, these wonderful birds can live up to 15 years in the wild!

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What colors can herons be?
 - A. Only brown
 - B. Only gray or black
 - C. White to dark blue
 - D. Only orange
- 2) What type of a beak does a heron have?
 - A. A long, pointy beak
 - B. A square beak
 - C. No beak at all
 - D. A short, curved beak
- 3) Which is a kind of animals herons prey on?
 - A. Bears
 - B. Elephants
 - C. Fish
 - D. Dogs
- 4) What do herons do after laying their eggs?
 - A. They sit on them
 - B. They leave the eggs
 - C. They bury the eggs
 - D. They put them in a pouch on their belly
- 5) How long do herons typically live?
 - A. Up to 50 years
 - B. Only 1 year
 - C. Over 100 years
 - D. Up to 15 years
- 6) What do herons eat?
 - A. Fruits
 - B. Meat
 - C. Seeds
 - D. Leaves
- 7) Where do herons build their nests?
 - A. Underground
 - B. In the ocean
 - C. High up in trees
 - D. On the ground
- 8) Where are you most likely to find herons?
 - A. In deserts
 - B. In jungles
 - C. In mountains
 - D. In Wetlands
- 9) What type of diet to herons have?
 - A. They are omnivores
 - B. They are herbivores
 - C. They are fruitivores
 - D. They are carnivores
- 10) Who cares for the heron chicks?
 - A. Only the father
 - B. Only the mother
 - C. Other birds
 - D. Both parents

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "My chicks need to fend for themselves right after they hatch."
- 12) "Fish are my favorite food!"



- 13) "I nest in tall trees. It keeps me safe from predators, and close to my food."
- 14) "My nest can house several heron chicks. It's quite spacious you know."
- 15) "I can have feathers ranging from pure white to dark blue."
- 16) "I can't fly and spend most of my time on the ground."
- 17) "My diet mainly includes fruits and seeds."
- 18) "We are a common sight in wetlands all around the world!"
- 19) "I keep my eggs on the ground, they're safer there."
- 20) "I am a small bird."
- 21) "I'm a carnivore. Meat is what I love to eat."
- 22) "I am a herbivore and love eating plants."
- 23) "Fish are my favorite meal, but when there is a chance, I gobble up frogs and even smaller animals."
- 24) "Both mom and dad play a role in bringing up the kids, that's how it goes in our family."
- 25) "I have a short life span of 3 to 5 years."
- 26) "I can live up to 15 years. Quite a long time, huh?"
- 27) "My pointy beak is great for getting fish."
- 28) "I prefer living in dry, desert areas."
- 29) "I rarely go into the water."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 30) Herons can be found in wetlands around the globe.
- 31) Herons are the most beautiful birds in the world with their long legs, slender necks, and elegant beaks.
- 32) Herons eat frogs, mammals, and other birds.
- 33) The way herons gracefully glide through the sky is the most beautiful sight to watch.
- 34) Herons have long, thin legs.
- 35) Herons are the coolest because they can eat anything from small mammals to frogs and fish!
- 36) Herons build their nests up high in trees.
- 37) Herons eat fish as part of their diet.
- 38) The fact that herons can live up to 15 years in the wild is amazing.
- 39) The best thing about herons is they are expert fish catchers.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 40) Male and female heron take turns sitting on the eggs.
- 41) After hatching, heron chicks are on their own.
- 42) Herons hunt for food by dipping their beaks in the water.
- 43) Herons eat only goldfish.
- 44) Herons can live up to 15 years in the wild.



- 67) Some herons, like the Boat-Billed Heron, are night hunters - the variety is truly surprising!
- 68) Herons have necks that can snap forward like a springtrap to catch their prey - such a clever hunting method!
- 69) Great blue herons can live up to 15 years - That's longer than most dog breeds!
- 70) Herons can spend up to 90% of their day feeding, that's some serious commitment!



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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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| 21. _____ | 46. _____ | |
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| 25. _____ | 50. _____ | |



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Speaking of chicks, let's take a quick peek into the life cycle of a heron. After a female heron lays her eggs, both parents take turns sitting on the nest to keep the eggs warm. When the chicks hatch, they're cared for by both parents until they're old enough to leave the nest and fend for themselves. And guess what, these wonderful birds can live up to 15 years in the wild!



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1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> D </u> |
| 3. <u> C </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> A </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> false </u> | 54. <u> C </u> |
| 5. <u> D </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> declarative </u> |
| 6. <u> B </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 8. <u> D </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 10. <u> D </u> | 35. <u> opinion </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> fact </u> | 61. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> fact </u> | 62. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> opinion </u> | 63. <u> declarative </u> |
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| 22. <u> false </u> | 47. <u> false </u> | |
| 23. <u> true </u> | 48. <u> true </u> | |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> true </u> | |
| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> B </u> | |



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C. Only brown
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C. A long, pointy beak
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A. Bears
B. Fish
C. Fish
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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "My chicks need to fend for themselves right after they hatch." (paragraph 4)



12) "Fish are my favorite food!" (paragraph 2)