



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. What are the main characteristics that distinguish birds from other animals? Which characteristic is unique to birds?

Flight is a general characteristic of birds, but not all birds can fly. Birds also have beaks, lay eggs, and build nests. These are general features of birds, but they are all shared with other species of animals. The most distinguishing characteristic that birds have is feathers because no other class of animals has feathers.

2. What kinds of habitats can birds live in?

Birds can live in many types of habitats; some spend much of their time in water, others in trees, forests, deserts, etc. There is a large variety of birds and they are adapted to live in many types of habitats.

3. What are some adaptations that flying species must have?

Species that are capable of true flight must have wings. They also must be light so not surprisingly birds have light bones. They also must be streamlined to reduce friction with the air.

4. What are the advantages of flight?

Flight enables an animal to explore many new resources. They can transport themselves much farther and they can travel long distances to avoid cold weather. They can get to places such as treetops where many other animals can not get. Flight can save energy in many situations when compared with walking or crawling.

5. What do different types of birds eat?

Birds are adapted for eating many types of food. Different species of birds consume rodents, amphibians, fish, small reptiles, seeds, fruit, insects, nectar, invertebrates, rootlets, and other plant matter.

6. Name and briefly describe five major orders of birds found in Idaho and give an example of each.

Examples and orders can vary.

7. Can you tell what kind of food a bird might eat just by looking at it? What body parts can help you understand the birds diet.

The shape of the beak as well as the feet can tell a lot about the diet of a bird.