



Find the Matching Parrots

The tiny, green hanging parrots of Southeast Asia roost upside down at night like bats.

Skill: Observe similarities and differences in objects.

The a-MAZE-ing Blue Hyacinth

To find out how many inches long the Blue Hyacinth macaw can grow to be, add up the numbers along the correct path.

Skills: Math. Find the sum of whole numbers.

Positively Parrots

The largest parrot is the Blue Hyacinth macaw. It lives in the tropical forests of South America. Scientists believe that there are now less than 5,000 of these beautiful birds left in the wild.

For hundreds of years, parrots large and small have been kept as pets. Perhaps they were first captured for food or for their colorful feathers, but when it was discovered they could "talk," they became pets rather than dinner.

There are more than 350 kinds of parrots. Some are only 3 inches long, while others

grow to be more than 3 feet long.

All parrots have short legs with two toes that point forward and two toes that point backward. This arrangement of toes makes it possible for parrots to grasp the fruits and nuts they like to eat. It also helps them to climb and even hang upside down.

LHIA, ROPMERE!



In ancient Rome, parrots were kept in silver cages and taught to say the above phrase. Unscramble the letters to find out the phrase.

ANSWER: Hi! Emperor!

Skills: Life Science: Recognize that different animals have different features that help them thrive in different places.



Why do parrots copy people?

Parrots are highly intelligent birds, and they like to play with people. Some parrots learn they can get attention when they copy, or *mimic*, human speech. Find at least 10 differences in the two pictures above.

Skill: Observe similarities and differences in objects.

Extra! Extra! Polly's Newspaper Game

Look through the newspaper for:

- 3 words that describe parrots
- numbers that add up to the number of inches a Blue Hyacinth macaw can grow to be
- the letters that spell what parrots were taught to say in ancient Rome

Skills: Reading: Identify words. Math: Calculate one and two digit sums.

The Parrot Who Would Not Talk

A true story!

One day a little parrot was sitting outside in the sun when some children came by and tried to get him to speak. But he would not utter a sound. After a while the children got tired and started to walk away. At that point the parrot called out, "Don't go!" Apparently, as long as the children were entertaining *him*, the parrot saw no reason to entertain *them*.



Skill: Reading comprehension.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

- PARROTS
- FEATHERS
- MACAW
- GREEN
- PETS
- FRUITS
- NUTS
- ROOST
- SPEAK
- MIMIC
- ROME
- TALK
- BIRDS
- TOES
- SMALL

O	P	M	I	M	I	C	I	S	G
F	E	A	T	H	E	R	S	M	R
U	T	C	R	F	G	M	P	A	K
F	S	A	O	R	N	E	L	B	
T	L	W	E	U	O	U	A	L	I
O	L	E	A	I	R	T	K	C	P
E	N	M	W	T	R	S	S	I	O
S	R	O	O	S	T	R	O	M	E
W	F	L	K	B	I	R	D	S	P

Skills: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Talking Bird

One day I found a talking parrot on a rock. It said that under the rock is gold, jewelry, and diamonds. When he said that I ran home and got my family. We brought some shovels and found the gold deep in the ground and became billionaires.

*Matt Morris, 6th Grade
Sinsheimer School*

One day I found a talking parrot on a rock. It said to me, "I have been around the world, wherever my wings would rest, visiting little boys and girls hoping that they would think I was the best. Never before have I been loved. I'm hoping that you will be true. I'm not a beautiful cooing dove, but I hope to be loved by you."

*Kelsey Dunn-DuBois, 6th Grade
Sinsheimer School*

One day I was driving along when I saw a parrot on a rock. Figuring it was stuffed, I pulled over and put it in a box. I closed the lid tightly and drove on. About five minutes later I heard a muffled voice coming from the box. It said, "You nitwit! You could have given me air holes." I screeched to a halt. Throwing open the lid of the box, I found the parrot alive and flapping. It flew out of the box and disappeared into the distance.

*Sarah Ashley, 5th Grade
Vineyard Elementary School*

One day I found a talking parrot on a rock and it said, "Would you like to join me?" The little girl replied, "Of course, I thought you would never ask." They became great friends. Every day they would sit on their rock and talk for hours and hours about how cool it would be to win the lottery and what they would do with the money. After that they would talk about how much they both liked cold cheese pizza.

*Elizabeth Hoppe, 8th Grade
Los Osos Middle School*

One day I found a talking parrot on a rock. It said, "Hi John." I took him home. My mom said I could keep him!

*Jerry Ferris, 4th Grade
Grover Heights School*

One day I found a talking parrot on a rock. It told me all the answers to my homework. I kept him for a pet!

*Mark Weddle, 4th Grade
Hawthorne School*

One day I found a talking parrot on a rock. It said, "Get me off this rock! My feet hurt so much!" I picked him and continued on my journey. "Shoo! Leave, please." I said to the parrot. "Fine," he answered testily. He flew off to find someone else to bug and I kept hiking peacefully.

*Hannah Steele, 6th Grade
Pacheco School*



Write On!



News Flash: Easter Bunny Spotted!

Send your story to:

Write a news story about a sighting of the Easter Bunny. Be sure to tell who, what, when, where, why and how.

Deadline: March 20, 2000 **Pub.:** Week of April 16, 2000
Please include your school and grade.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Word Mimics

Some words mean the same or almost the same thing, such as mimic and copy. Look through the newspaper for words that mean the same or almost the same thing.

Skill: Reading: Vocabulary Development, recognize common synonyms.



Why did the parrot cross the road?

ANSWER: Because it was the chicken's day off.