

## Hummingbird: A Mighty Flier

**1** What is two inches tall, can hover in mid-air, and flies in every direction including backwards? It's not an insect. The answer is the bee hummingbird. Most hummingbirds are about three to five inches long. But the bee hummingbird is only two inches or approximately five centimeters long, making it the smallest species of bird alive today. Really it isn't bigger than a large insect. But don't let its tiny body fool you. This bird is a **fierce** flier. It can **beat** its wings up to 80 times per second. If you ever see one in flight, you'll notice its wings are just a blur to the human eye. Hummingbirds are also the only vertebrates that can hover in one place. These amazing birds can also fly backwards and upside down, and are considered amazing flying machines.

**2** These birds are amazing! They are the smallest migrating birds. They don't migrate in flocks like other species, and they typically travel alone for up to 500 miles at a time. The name, hummingbird, comes from the humming noise their wings make when they beat so fast.

**3** Males tend to be smaller than females, allowing conservation of energy to forage competitively and participate more frequently in courtship. Thus, sexual selection will favor smaller male hummingbirds. Female hummingbirds tend to be larger, requiring more energy, with longer beaks that allow for more effective reach into crevices of tall flowers for **nectar**. Therefore, females are better at foraging, acquiring flower nectar, and supporting the energy demands of their larger body size. Directional selection will thus favor the larger hummingbirds in terms of acquiring food.

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**4** The average number of eggs laid by female hummingbirds is only two. These eggs have been found in nests smaller than a half dollar and compared in size to a jellybean or a coffee bean. Some species, like the Black-chinned Hummingbird, make their nests with plant down, spider silk, and other natural resources that can expand as their babies grow after hatching.

**5** Hummingbirds have unusually long lifespans for organisms with such rapid **metabolisms**. **Though** many die during their first year of life, especially in the **vulnerable** period between hatching and fledging, those that survive may occasionally live a decade or more.

**6** And being a master flier isn't the only one of the bee hummingbird's talents. The bee hummingbird does a great job performing its part in plant reproduction. During the course of a single day, the bee hummingbird can visit up to 1,500 flowers. And just like a bee, when the bee hummingbird drinks nectar from the flowers, **pollen** is transferred from the flower to the bird's body. This pollen is carried to the next flower. Transferring pollen from one flower to another helps plants make seeds.

**7** Besides drinking nectar, bee hummingbirds eat insects. In fact, they eat about half their body mass each day. But what's more impressive is that they drink eight times their body mass every day. This is why they live in areas where there are gardens and shrubbery. These tiny birds are found primarily in U.S.A and Cuba, but some have been spotted in Jamaica and Haiti as well.

**Choose the correct answers.**

1- Most hummingbirds are about ..... long.

- a. Three to five centimeters
- b. Three to five inches ✓
- c. Three to four inches

The correct answer is: Three to five inches

They received their name because of.....

- a. Their special movement while flying ✗
- b. The sound they produce while getting their food
- c. The sound they produce from their beating wings

The correct answer is: The sound they produce from their beating wings



The larger size allows female hummingbirds to ...

- a. Participate more successfully in courtship.
- b. Get food more easily. ✓
- c. Protect their nests from invaders.

The correct answer is: Get food more easily.

Hummingbirds can live up to .....

- a. Less than ten years. ✗
- b. Twenty years and more
- c. Ten years or more

The correct answer is: Ten years or more



Some species of hummingbirds build their nests with plants down from spider silk, and other natural resources that can expand so that .....

- a. They can fit their babies growing up. ✓
- b. It will be easier for them to take care of their eggs.
- c. No animals can attack them.

The correct answer is: They can fit their babies growing up.

Hummingbirds can help in the reproduction process as they .....

- a. Transfer nectar
- b. Drink nectar and transfer seeds ✗
- c. Transfer pollen

The correct answer is: Transfer pollen



Some hummingbirds can visit up to ..... flowers during a single day!!!

- a. Five thousand
- b. Five hundred
- c. Fifteen hundred ✓
- d. Less than a thousand

The correct answer is: Fifteen hundred

Read the following statements and decide whether they are **True or False**:

Hummingbirds are extraordinary birds, they can fly in different directions except backwards.

Select one:

- True
- False ✓

The correct answer is 'False'.

Just like other birds, every year hummingbirds migrate in groups up to 500 miles at a time.

Select one:

- True
- False ✓

Males are smaller in size, so that they can get food easily.

Select one:

- True
- False ✘

The correct answer is 'True'.

Female hummingbirds prefer huger male birds.

Select one:

- True
- False ✔

The correct answer is 'False'.





Hummingbirds have an ordinary lifespan like other species with the same rapid metabolism.

Select one:

- True
- False ✓

The correct answer is 'False'.

Most hummingbirds die in their second year of life between hatching and mating.

Select one:

- True
- False ✓

The correct answer is 'False'.



Hummingbirds play a valid role in the plant reproduction process on Earth.

Select one:

- True ✓
- False

The correct answer is 'True'.

Hummingbirds can only be found in U.S, Cuba, and Haiti.

Select one:

- True
- False ✓

The correct answer is 'False'.

?

**Though** - paragraph 5 links two contrasting ideas, state them.

Idea 1:

Hummingbirds have unusually long lifespans for organisms with such rapid metabolisms

Idea 2:

many of them die during their first year of life, especially in the vulnerable period between hatching and fledging

**Match the following words from the text to their definitions:**

Metabolisms

the chemical and physical processes by which a living thing uses food for energy and growth



Nectar

a sweet liquid produced by flowers and collected by bees and other insects



Fierce

physically strong; violent; frightening



Vulnerable

able to be easily hurt, influenced, or attacked



Pollen

a powder, produced by the male part of a flower, that causes the female part of the same type of flower to produce seeds. It is carried by insects or the wind



Beat

to go in a specific movement or direction



The correct answer is: Metabolisms → the chemical and physical processes by which a living thing uses food for energy and growth, Nectar → a sweet liquid produced by flowers and collected by bees and other insects, Fierce → physically strong; violent; frightening, Vulnerable → able to be easily hurt, influenced, or attacked, Pollen → a powder, produced by the male part of a flower, that causes the female part of the same type of flower to produce seeds. It is carried by insects or the wind, Beat → to go in a specific movement or direction

**Circle the correct choice**

Reading books with your children can help develop their \_\_\_\_\_ skills.

- a. communicative
- b. communication ✓
- c. communicate

The correct answer is: communication

These cats have homes now, but they were \_\_\_\_\_ because their owners could not pay for their food.

- a. abandoned ✓
- b. abandonment
- c. abandon

The correct answer is: abandoned

Schools should start teaching children to think ..... from an early age through different pedagogical activities.

- a. analysis
- b. analytically ✓
- c. analytic

The correct answer is: analytically

The main goal of the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is the \_\_\_\_\_ of animals.

- a. protected
- b. protective
- c. protection ✓

The correct answer is: protection

When these chemicals get into the water supply, this \_\_\_\_\_ plants, and animals.

- a. contrasts
- b. cooperates
- c. affects ✓

The correct answer is: affects

Grey squirrels are seen as pests, \_\_\_\_\_ red squirrels are protected

- a. whereas ✓
- b. also
- c. However

The correct answer is: whereas

In Canada, grizzly bears live mainly in the forests, \_\_\_\_\_polar bears live mainly on the ice.

- a. while ✓
- b. nor
- c. and

The correct answer is: while

Children with ... parents often do better at school than those without.

- a. supporter
- b. support
- c. supportive ✓

The correct answer is: supportive



The film contains violent and .... language and is unsuitable for children.

- a. abusively
- b. abusive ✓
- c. abused

The correct answer is: abusive

The American black bear is not large \_\_\_\_\_ aggressive.

- a. nor
- b. or ✓
- c. and

The correct answer is: or

**Complete the sentences with the correct transition words.**

1. Nurses work long hours and live in difficult conditions.  ✓ , they get very little reward.
2. Many people aren't against animal testing.  ✓ , they demand using animals more in scientific experiments.
3.  ✓ he never completed college, he runs a successful software company.
4. The price of the tickets for the concert was very expensive,  ✓ he has decided to get them.

The correct answer is:

**Complete the sentences with the correct transition words.**

1. Nurses work long hours and live in difficult conditions. [However], they get very little reward.
2. Many people aren't against animal testing. [On the contrary], they demand using animals more in scientific experiments.
3. [Even though]he never completed college, he runs a successful software company.
4. The price of the tickets for the concert was very expensive, [yet]he has decided to get them.

Put the following words and phrases in the correct order to form meaningful sentences.

He / always / drives / his car / out of the garage /  
in the morning .

The correct answer is:

Put the following words and phrases in the correct order to form meaningful sentences.

[He] / [always] / [drives] / [his car] / [out of the garage] / [in the morning].

They / usually / meet / their friends /  
after dinner / at the sports ground .

The / tiger / shark / is / extremely / aggressive .

The correct answer is:

[The] / [tiger] / [shark] / [is] / [extremely] / [aggressive].