Birds, Bugs, and Other Beautiful Things

... a book to be read to and by young people learning to read









By Ronald E. Johnson, C.Ph.D.

Book 5 of 10

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Introduction

Every child thrills at the sight of a beautiful butterfly sucking nectar from a red rose. Boys and girls squeal with delight as they watch an Eagle soar high, then swoop down to snatch a fish from a river. The nests of bees, wasps, and hornets always draw the eyes of inquisitive youth. The playful antics of a pair of baby raccoons captivate the attention of children. The eyes of boys grow wide like saucers when a moose steps out of the woods and ambles toward tourists. Little girls pooch their lips at the sight of a worm or caterpillar crawling up the arm of a boy. Young readers naturally want to learn about Birds, Bugs, and Other Beautiful Things encountered in forests, meadows, and mountains, and along streams, rivers, lakes, and ocean shores. This book is designed to engage young readers to learn about creatures, life, and wisdom while learning reading skills. Vivid photographs accent the text to attract the reader's interest and curiosity about nature and life. Reading hints are provided to guide the parent or teacher as he or she teaches helpful phonetic skills while reading or listening to the young reader sound out words, learn about homonyms, and discover how to divide syllables.

Helps For Sounding Out Words

Many English words are "borrowed" from Greek and Latin words that do not fit conveniently into English phonetic rules. Such words must be learned by memory (repeating them often). By reading good books repeatedly, children learn to pronounce, spell, and use words, and to become wise.

The following helps for reading are provided to assist the teacher in training young readers to pronounce words according to basic phonetic rules. These reading rules do not apply to all English words, but the rules equip readers to pronounce and spell many words easily.

English words are made up of two types of letters: **vowels (a,e,i,o,u, and sometimes y) and consonants (b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,z).**

In **short words (or single syllables) with <u>one</u> vowel <u>within</u> the word or syllable**, the vowel usually has a short sound. Short word examples: h**a**nd, c**a**t, r**e**d, sl**e**d, f**i**sh, l**i**p, d**i**sh, d**o**g, l**o**g, h**u**g, r**u**g. **A single vowel at the <u>end</u> of a syllable or short word** usually has a long sound (says its name): b**e**, h**e**, m**e**, h**i**, g**o**, s**o**, b**y**, m**y**.

In **short words (or single syllables) with <u>two</u> vowels**, the first vowel usually has a long sound (says its name) and the second vowel is usually silent. Short word examples: **a**pe, **a**te, **e**at, f**ee**t, w**i**se, pr**i**ze, s**oa**p, g**oa**t, bl**ue**, m**u**le, b**y**e, l**y**e.

Some consonants that are side by side make a special sound (bl, br, ch, cl, dr, fl, gr, pl, sh, st, th, wh). Examples: **bl**ack, **br**anch, **cl**ap, **dr**um, **fl**ag, **gr**ape, **pl**um, **sh**ip, **st**op, **th**in, **wh**ip).

The combination of **ph** has the sound of the consonant **f**. Examples: tele**ph**one, ele**ph**ant.

More Helps For Sounding Out Words

The combination of the letters **sl** usually have a special sound made by placing the tip of the tongue just behind the upper teeth and flipping the tongue to pronounce the **sl** sound as in **sl**eep, **sl**ow, **sl**umber, **sl**ed, **sl**ope.

Words ending in two **l**'s have the sound of only one **l**. Examples: wa**ll**, hi**ll**, pi**ll**, fe**ll**.

Words with combinations of a vowel and the letter **r** (er, ir, ur, ar, and or), usually have the sound of just **r**. Examples: sug**ar**, s**ir**, wis**er**, b**ir**d, col**or**, w**or**d, auth**or**, h**ur**t, b**ur**n.

The combination of the letters **ow** sometimes have a special sound as in **ow**l, h**ow**l, c**ow**, n**ow**, h**ow**. At other times the **ow** letters together make a special sound in which only the **O** vowel is pronounced, as in st**o**w, b**o**w, cr**o**w, r**o**w, bl**o**w.

When two **o**'s are side by side, they make a short double-o sound, as in c**oo**k, f**oo**t, b**oo**k, h**oo**k, sh**oo**k. At other times, the **oo** letters have a long double-o sound as in b**oo**t, h**oo**t, t**oo**t, l**oo**se.

Birds of The Air













Eagles are big birds that live **most/ly** in **moun/tains**. The Bald Eagle is the **na/tion/al** bird for America. It is a **ma/jes/tic** and grand bird. Photos and images of the Bald Eagle are printed on coins, posters, and books.







People think of God and country, and sometimes want to **pray**, when the American flag and Bald Eagle are shown side by side in books or on posters.







Eagles eat fish, mice, squirrels, whistle pigs, prairie dogs, and rabbits. Eagles have eyes that can spot a **prey** from high in the sky or from a tree branch on a mountain cliff. A tall pine tree is the **site** of an Eagle's nest. From it, the Eagle can search for prey far below among gray rocks, green grass, or brown tuffs of weeds.



The **sight** of an Eagle soaring in the sky makes us want to fly, **too**. Eagles have **two** long wings with feathers that are designed **to** catch the air so the great birds can soar, swoop, and glide among wind currents. Humans are not created to fly.







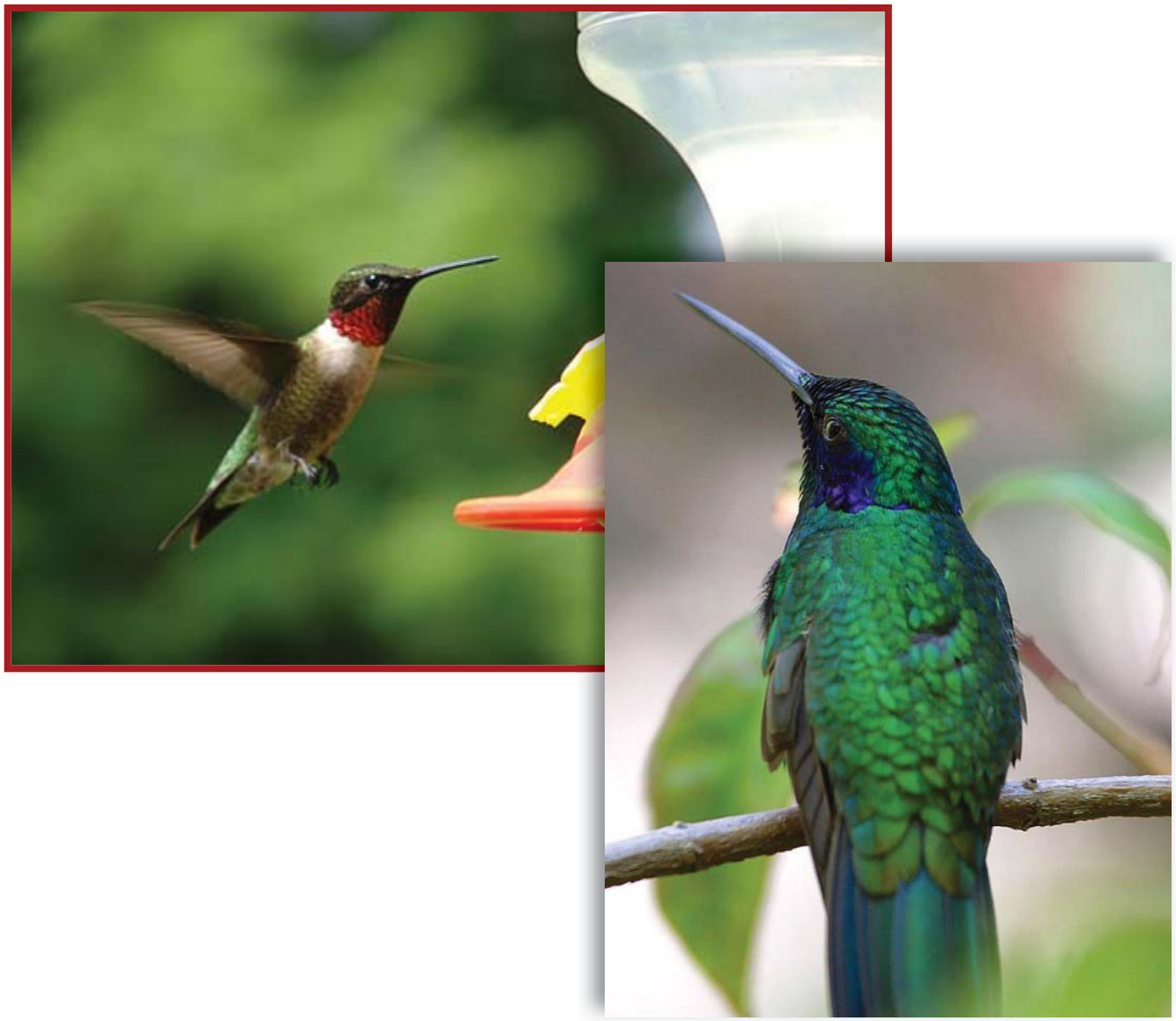
We have two arms and two hands with ten fingers, but they are made for holding books, pencils, and paper while we learn. Our two legs and feet equip us to walk, trot, or run from place to place as we learn and serve other people. Our two eyes let us watch birds, bugs, and other **beau/ti/ful** things.











Humming birds are tiny little creatures that can fly up, down, forward, and backward, or just hover in space. They flit from flower to flower to gather nectar for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Their long beak and tongue allow humming birds to draw nectar from any type of flower. While **foraging** from flower to flower, the tiny creatures spread nectar that helps flowers bloom into beautiful **foliage**.



Meadow Larks live mostly on the ground. They eat tiny seeds from plants that grow in meadows, fields, and pastures. The Meadow Lark has a yellow chest the color of the sun. Each evening, the songs of Meadow Larks can be heard on ranches, farms, and city parks in places where the Meadow Larks migrate each year.





Robins are favorite birds each **Spring** after a **Winter** of ice and snow. Children call him Mr. Robin Red Breast because of the bright red feathers on the front of the Robin.









Robins like to eat cherries and mulberries when they **fall** from fruit trees during **Summer** months. Robins fly away each **Fall** when weather begins to turn cool and leaves turn gold, red, and yellow.



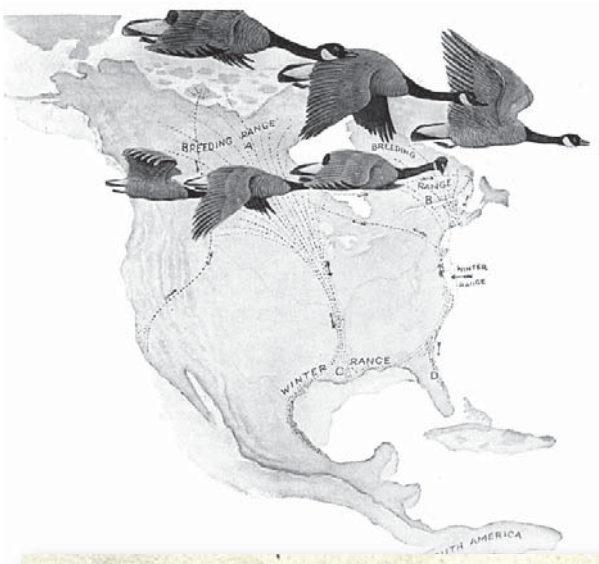
Ducks, geese, and cranes honk and quack as they fly south over fields, meadows, mountains, and prairies in search of grain each Fall. They circle down in formation to land in rice, corn, or wheat fields.

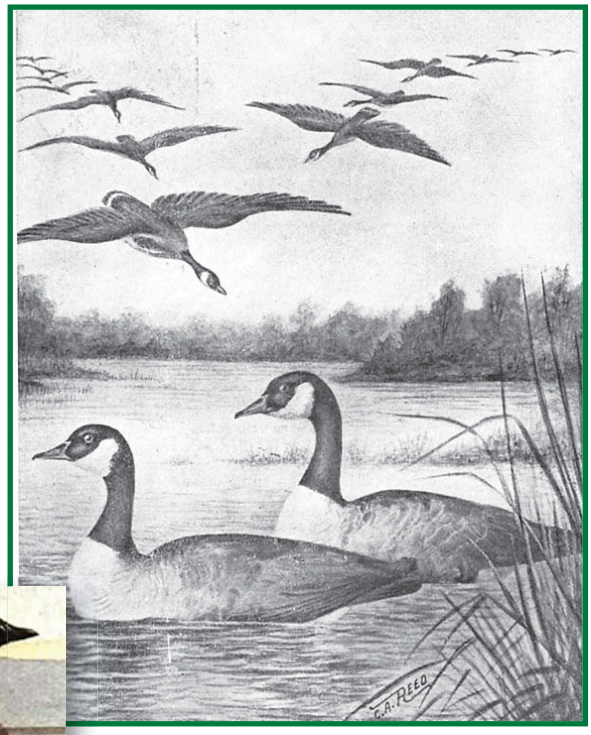


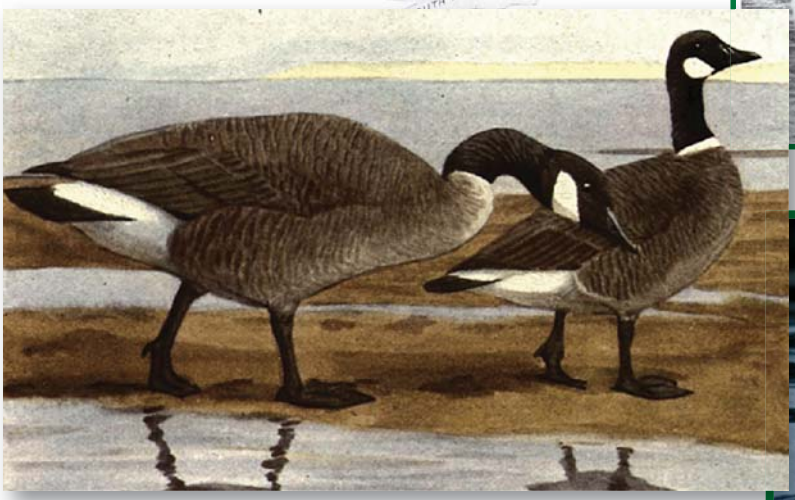








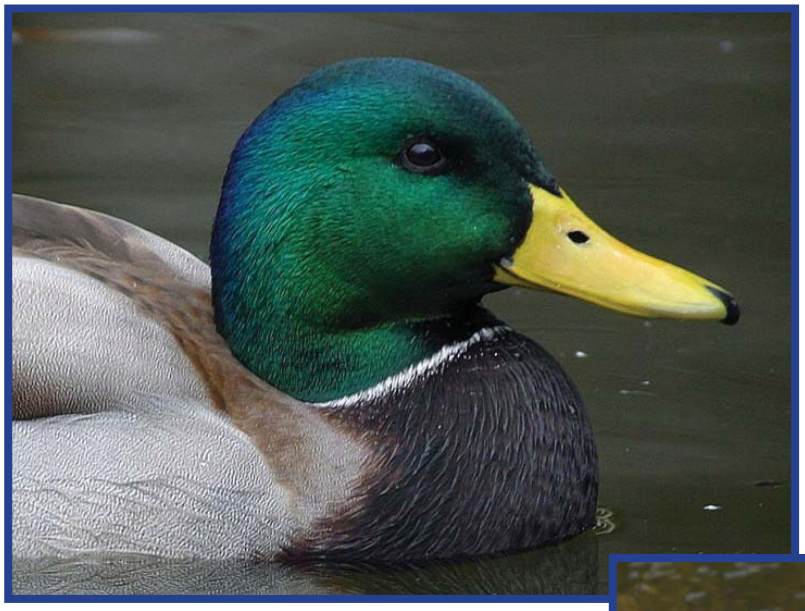




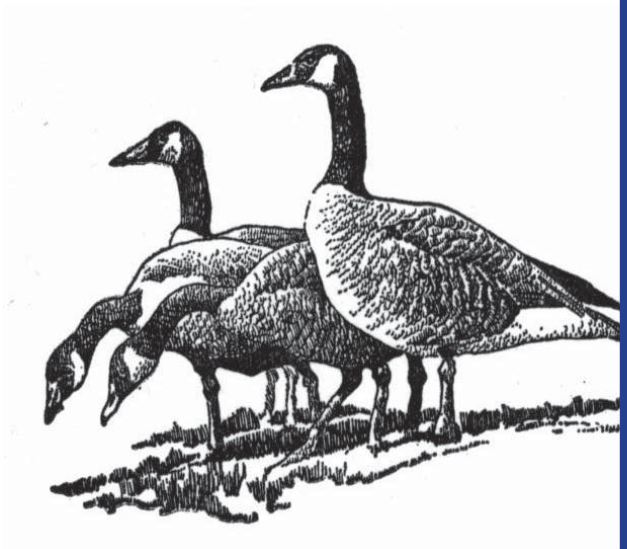


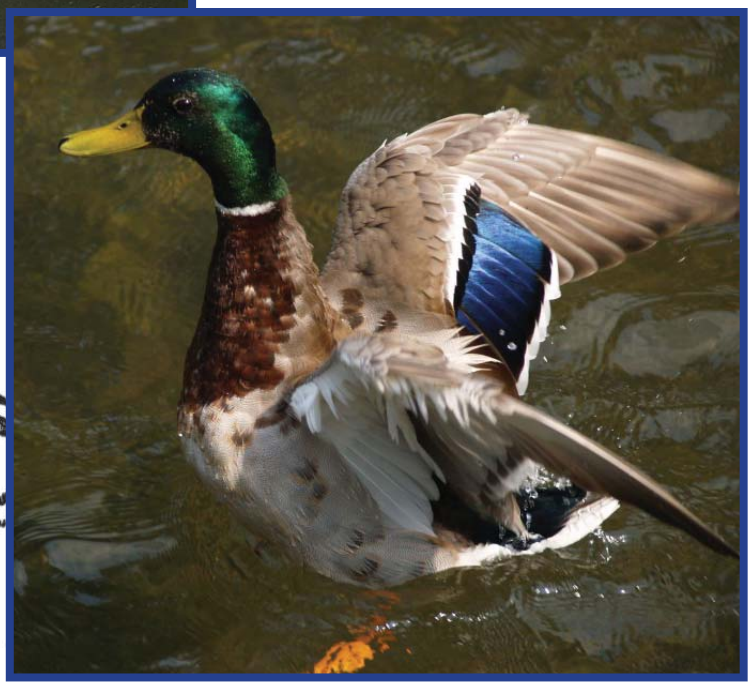
Each Spring, they migrate from Central or South America back to the exact lakes and ponds in Canada where they built nests to hatch fluffy yellow chicks. The chicks swim in lines behind their mothers as they grow into adults.

They learn to eat minnows, frogs, bugs, seeds, and grass. The mothers are called hens. The father ducks are called drakes, and the father geese are called ganders.

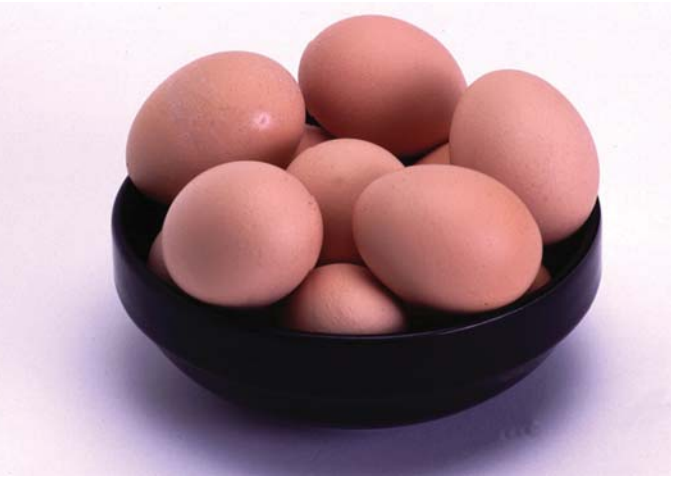










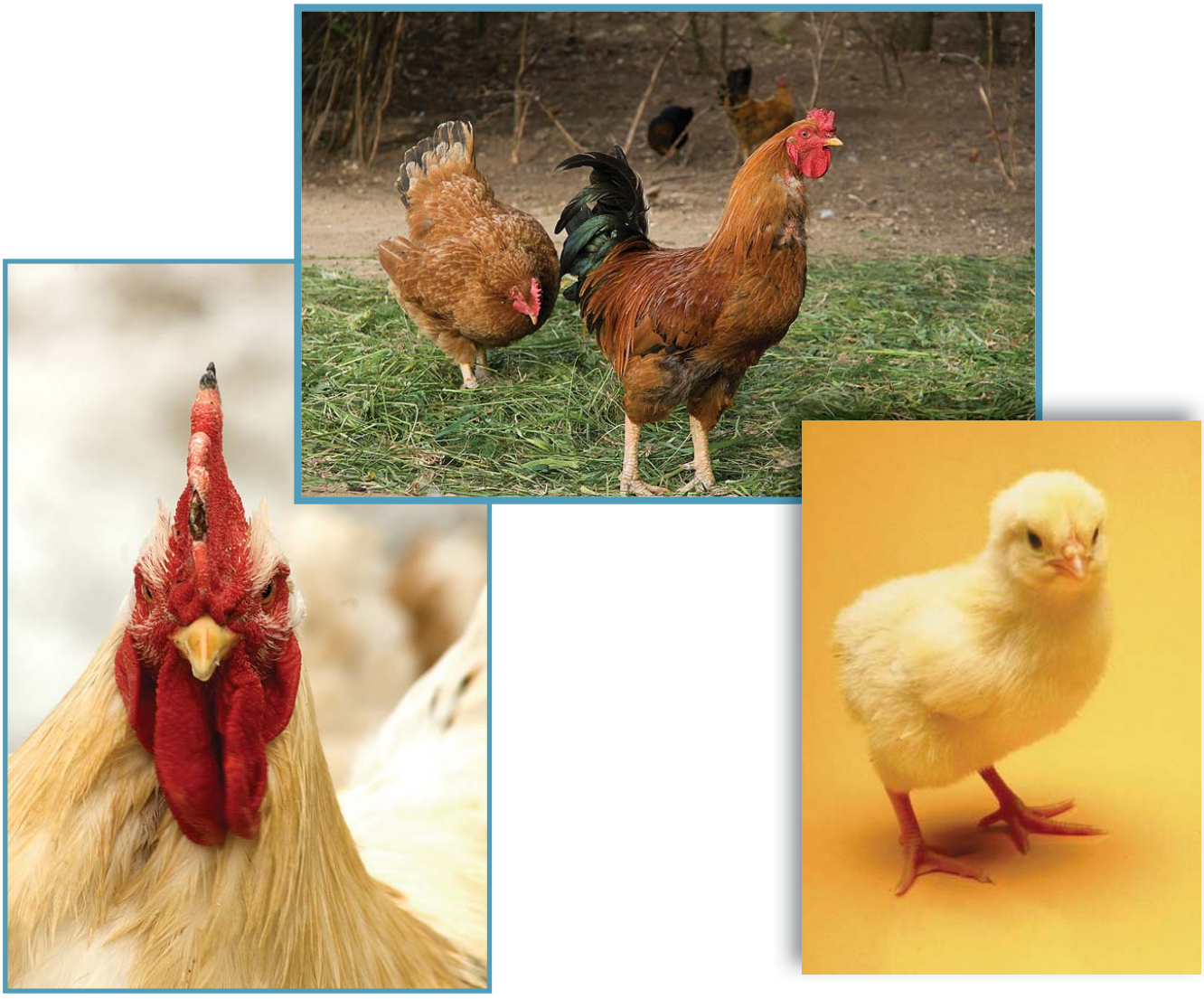


Chickens are the source of eggs that we eat for breakfast or use to make bread, pies, cookies, and cakes. A favorite meal at home or restaurants is fried or baked chicken. Chickens are sometimes called **poul/try**. They are hatched in nests and raised on farms.





Some chickens are white. Others are red, brown, black, or spotted. The mothers are called hens. The fathers are called roosters. Roosters crow each morning as the sun begins to peak over the horizon. Each Easter season, baby chicks are favorite pets of young children.



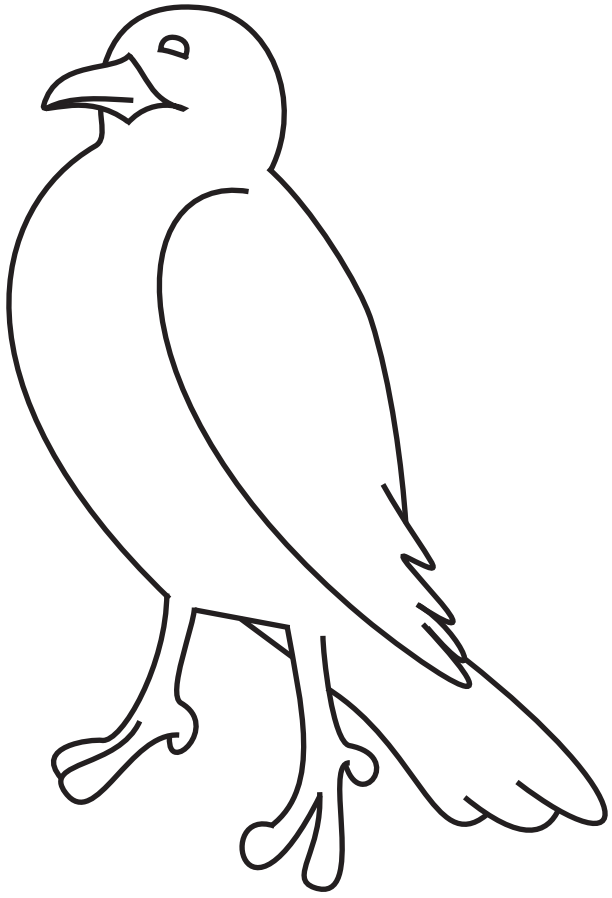
Pelicans are strange birds. They have long skinny necks. Their beaks have a sack that is perfect for catching fish in the ocean. Pelicans fly in formation as they glide over the water surface in search of schools of small fish. The lead pelican will suddenly dive into the water to snatch a fish.





Activity Page

Color this Robin.



Copy these words.

Robin _____ _____ _____

fly _____ _____ _____

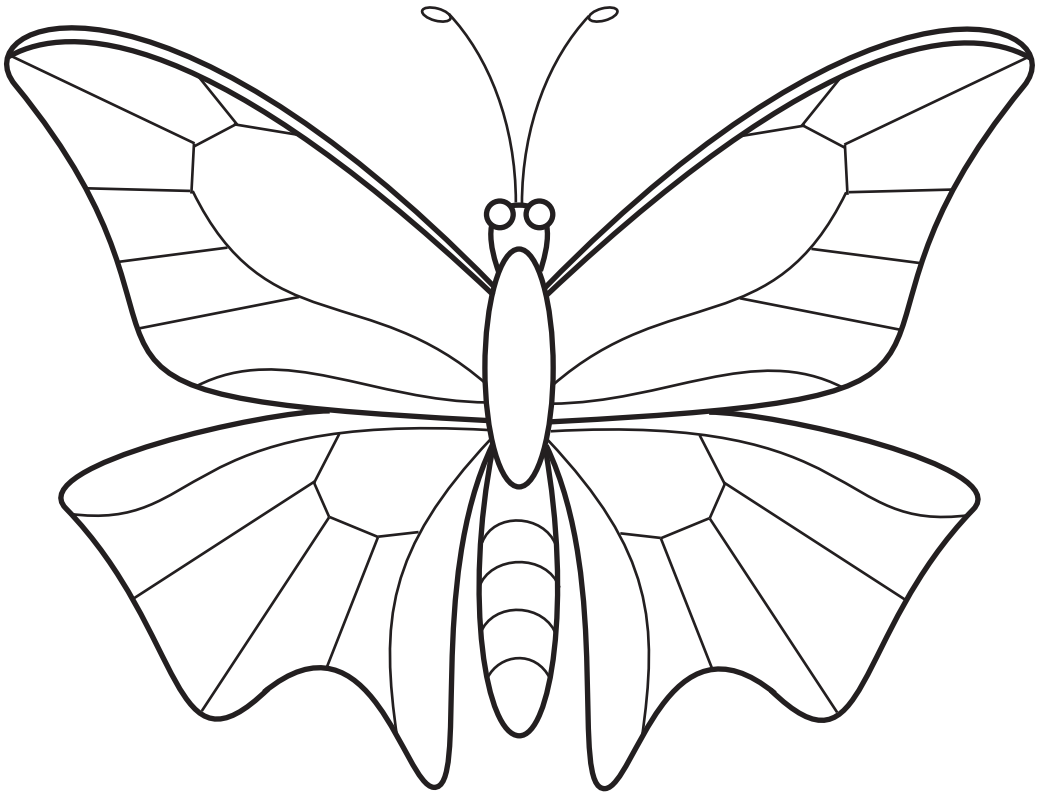
chirp _____ _____ _____

winter _____ _____ _____

spring _____ _____ _____

Activity Page

Color this Butterfly.



Copy these words.

wings _____ _____ _____

flower _____ _____ _____

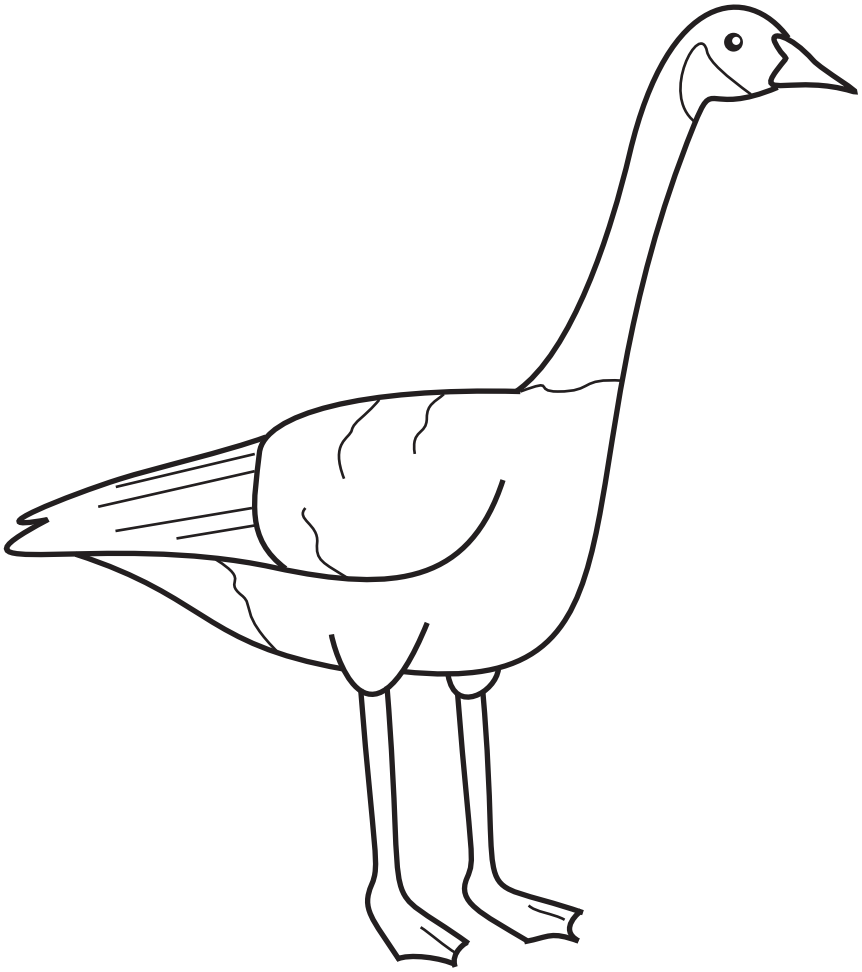
nectar _____ _____ _____

cocoon _____ _____ _____

bush _____ _____ _____

Activity Page

Color this Goose.



Copy these words.

goose _____ _____ _____

duck _____ _____ _____

crane _____ _____ _____

quack _____ _____ _____

honk _____ _____ _____

Activity Page

Draw and Color Your Favorite Bird in this Book.

The rest of the formation dives headfirst into the waves to grab lunch. The pelicans gulp down their meal, then find posts or rocks on which to perch while taking a nap. A formation of Pelicans gliding over the surf at sundown makes a beautiful sight for tourists who stroll along the beach during summer months.





Bugs and Bees









Ladybugs are the favorite crawly creatures of little girls. They like to watch the tiny bugs creep **along** the ground, **on** leaves, **across** sidewalks, **down** fingers, and **up** walls.

The red and black wings of Ladybugs make them objects of **cur/i/os/i/ty** and joy. The quaint bugs are really harmless little insects that seem to be created especially for children to enjoy.







Bumble bees are the favorite flying creatures of little boys. They like to study bumble bee's fat bodies and stubby wings as they buzz from white flowers to pink blossoms in search of nectar. The sting of a bee can cause **pain**. That is why the safest way to watch a bumble bee buzz is **through** a window **pane**.

















Hornets are also curious creatures that buzz, fly, and sting. Hornets build nests from dried leaves and a special liquid made by the hornets. The foolish boy who **threw** a stone at a hornet's nest felt the pain of a sting that drew tears to the boy's eyes. Hornets build nests in bushes and trees.



Silkworms are called larva when they make a special juice used to **man/u/fac/ture** cocoons. Men and women in China use cocoon fibers to spin into beautiful silk threads.

The silk threads are woven into cloth used to **sew** shirts, blouses, **cum/ber/bunds**, sashes, skirts, handkerchiefs, and dresses. A good way to **sow** kindness is to give a silk hand/ker/chief as a gift.







Butterflies are favorite insects of children and adults. Butterflies **mi/grate** across mountains, rivers, and meadows to places where they lay their eggs. The eggs hatch and become fuzzy worms that spin cocoons. The cocoons break open and the new creatures **unfold** their wings.





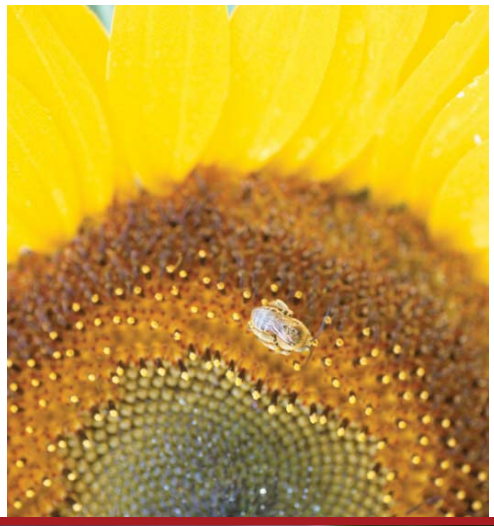




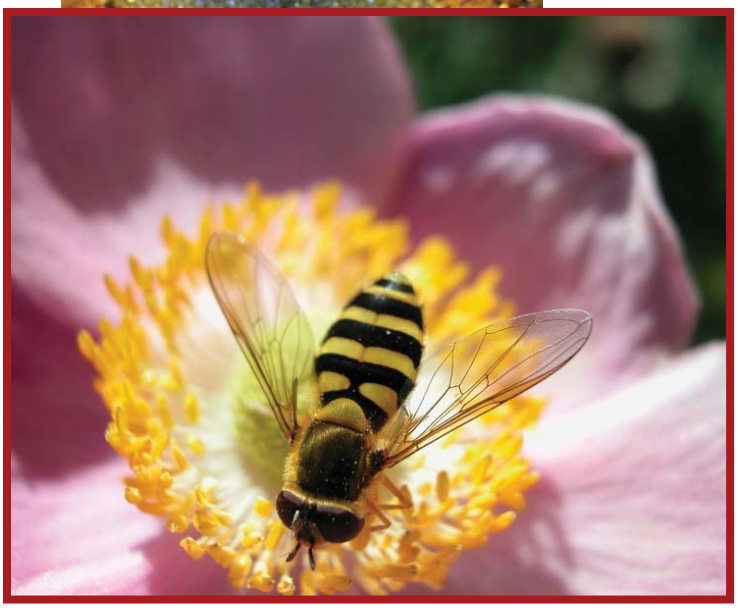
Butterfly wings **display** bright colors of yellow, red, orange, white, purple, and black. Butterflies like to eat nectar from flowers on fruit trees and berry bushes. The nectar gives butterflies energy to **pol/li/nate** flowers, then fly back to the places where they hatched.



Honey bees are known as hard workers of the insect world. Human bee-keepers have learned how to make homes, called hives, for bees. Every spring and summer honey bees visit fields and orchards to pollinate flowers and extract pollen.

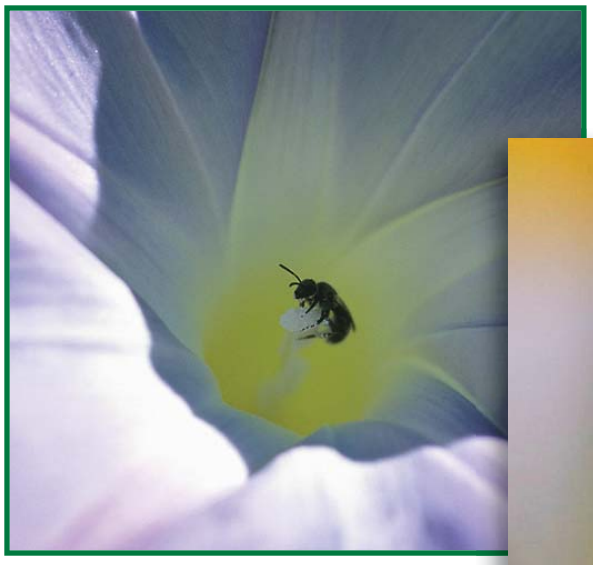








Farmers need the bees to help grow healthy crops. The honey bees gather the pollen on their tiny legs and fly from flower to flower, then to the hives where the pollen is made into wax combs filled with sweet honey.











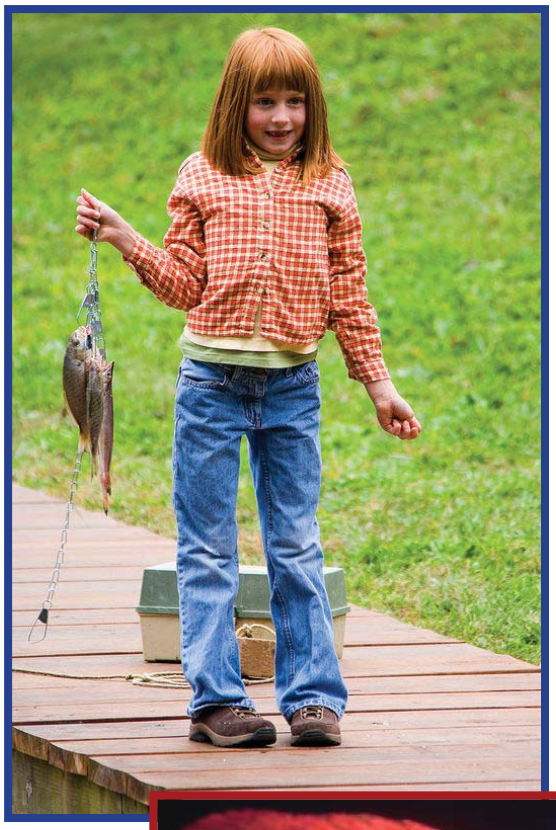


The bee-keepers gather the honey in buckets and pour the liquid **sub/stance** into jars that are sold to grocery stores. Honey has been a favorite food for at least 1000 years before the birth of Jesus (1000 **BC**). For two thousand years since the death of Christ (2000 **AD**), mer/chants have collected and sold honey to sweeten bread, cereal, and fruit.



Other beautiful creatures on **earth** include animals with **hooves**, such as the horse, deer, giraffe, musk ox, and caribou. Some of the most beautiful land animals with **claws** include Mountain lions, leopards, tigers, bobcats, wolves, foxes, and bears. Beautiful **a/quat/ic** animals include seals, whales, and walruses.





Fish of the Sea



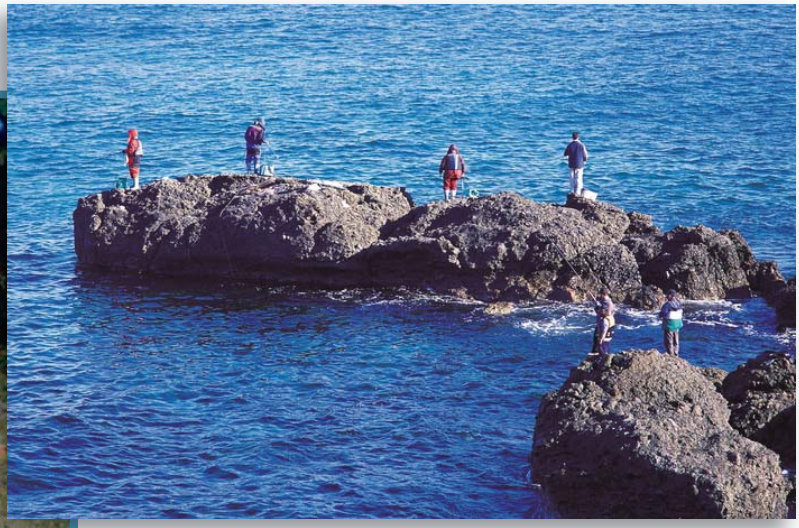


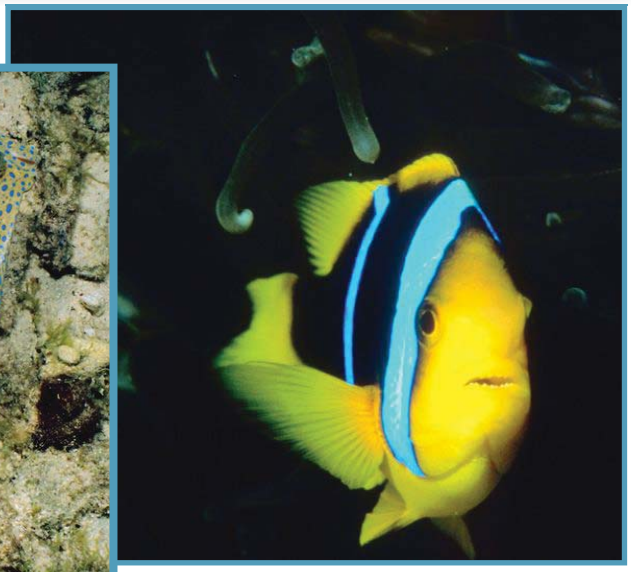


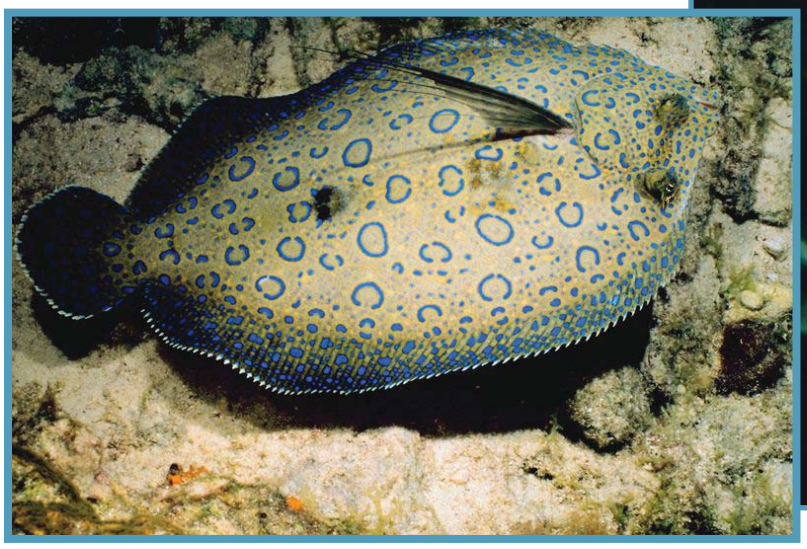


Fish have beautiful scales that flash vibrant colors in sunlight. Some of the most **as/ton/ish/ing** colorful fish are rainbow trout, salmon, tuna, marlin, swordfish, and mahi-mahi. Sportsmen around the **globe** enjoy catching these fish that are not only beautiful, but also very tasty.













Some fish are not so beautiful on the outside, but they have a beautiful taste when baked, broiled, fried, or smoked. Such fish include flounder, halibut, and tilapia, which was the breed of fish caught in nets by Christ's disciples in the Sea of Galilee.

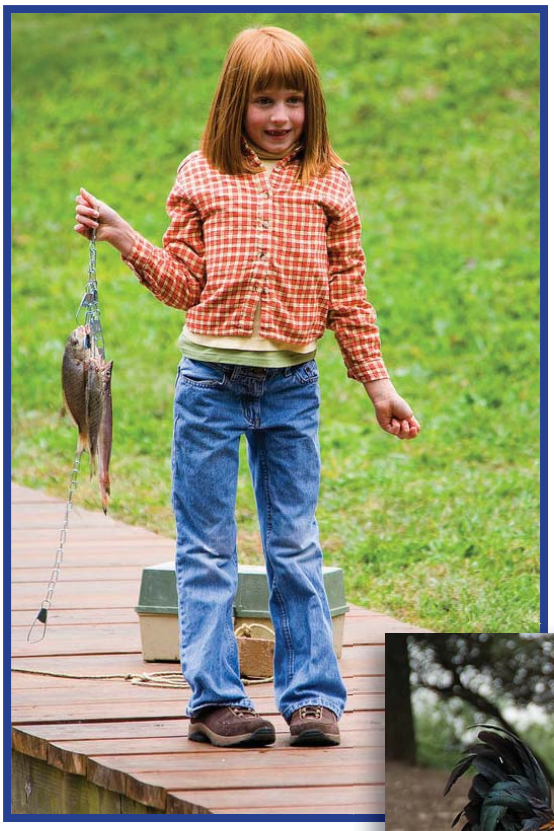






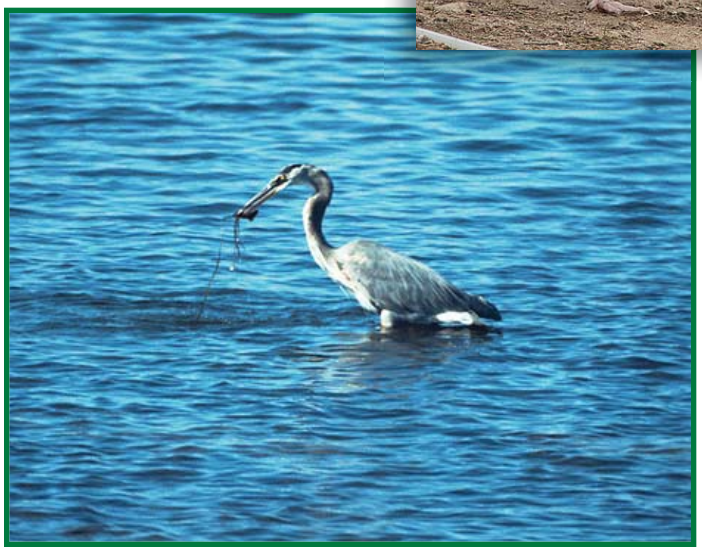
Other aquatic creatures include such species as sharks, whales, porpoises, starfish, jellyfish, crabs, oysters, skates, stingrays, octopuses, and shrimp. These are not normally con/sid/ered to be beautiful. However, all of God's creatures serve a purpose in e/col/o/gy.















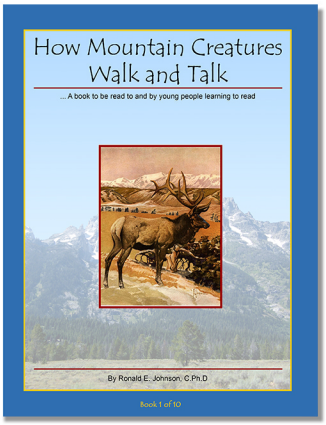


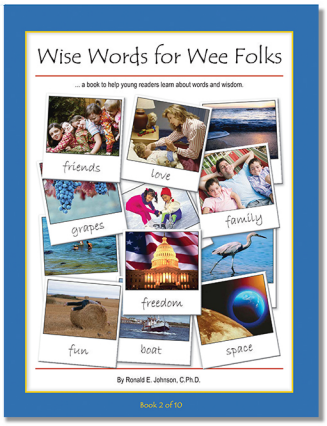


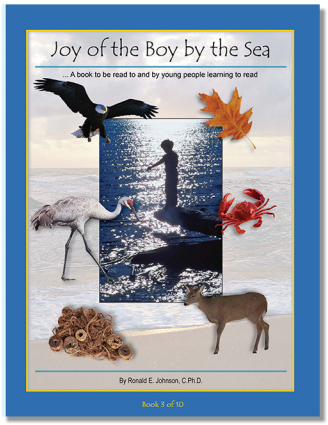


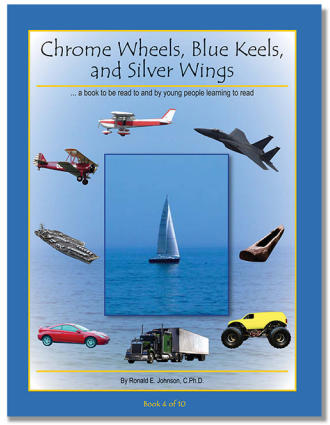


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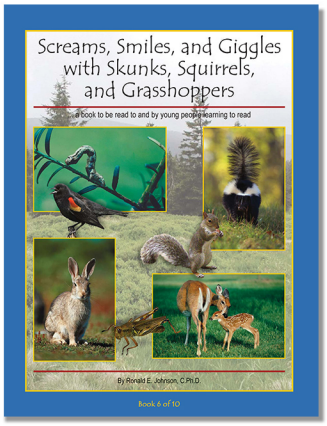


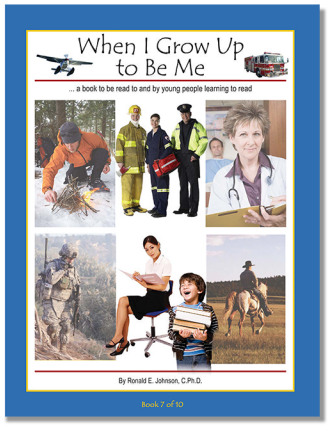


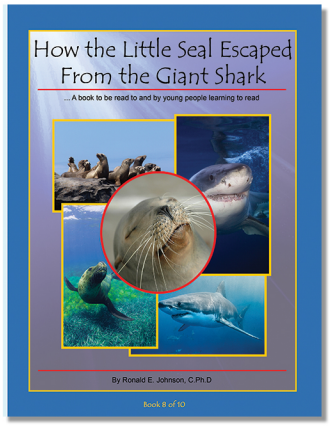


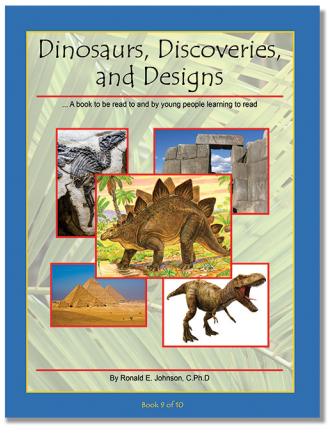


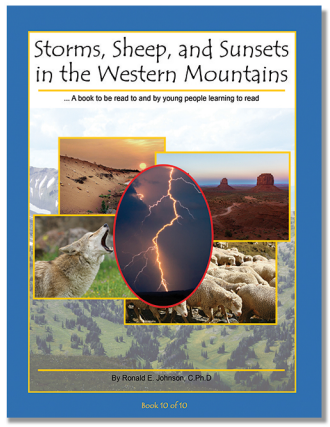












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