



Imagine a bird with a royal blue coat and a crest on its head that can stand up or lay flat, can you picture it? That's a blue jay for you! These wonderful creatures are not just blue, but also have white bellies and black neck collars around their necks. They have strong, black beaks and bold black markings around their eyes. Did you know that blue jays are not really blue? The 'blue' we see is actually an effect of the way light is scattered off the tiny structures of the feathers.



Now that we can picture our feathered friends, let's talk about where they live and what they eat. Blue jays are quite versatile and can live in forests, cities and even in your backyard. When it comes to food, they have a varied diet including insects, nuts, seeds and even small fruits. They are also known to hide food to eat later, a habit known as 'caching'.

Our blue feathered friends not only have interesting eating habits, but also have a fascinating lifecycle and relationship with other creatures. Blue jays mate for life, and they build their nests in the fork of a tree where the female lays 4-5 eggs. They are also known to mimic the calls of hawks, maybe to scare away other birds or just for fun! While some people find their loud calls annoying, many others enjoy their lively presence and their role in spreading tree seeds.



Speaking of their role in seed dispersal, this is one of the ways blue jays interact with their environment and make a difference. They play a crucial role in forest regeneration as they bury acorns and other seeds and forget some of them, allowing new trees to grow. Blue jays also have a unique defense mechanism. When threatened, they can make a lot of noise to scare away predators. So not only are blue jays beautiful, they are also quite the seed spreaders and protectors of their homes!

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

- 1) What is the name for the habit blue jays have of hiding food to eat later?
  - A. Burying
  - B. Hoarding
  - C. Caching
  - D. Sharing
- 2) Which do blue jays eat?
  - A. Meat and fish
  - B. Grass, bark and plants
  - C. Nuts, seeds, and small fruits
  - D. Rocks, gems and stones
- 3) What color is the belly of a blue jay?
  - A. Black
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  - C. Green
  - D. Red
- 4) What role do blue jays play in forest regeneration?
  - A. They eat all the seeds preventing new trees from growing
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  - C. They keep the forest floor clean of debris
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- 5) What sound do blue jays mimic to scare away other birds?
  - A. The calls of falcons
  - B. The calls of eagles
  - C. The calls of owls
  - D. The calls of hawks
- 6) Which place do blue jays not usually live?
  - A. Backyards
  - B. Cities
  - C. Forests
  - D. Beaches
- 7) What is the number of eggs a female blue jay lays?
  - A. 6-7 eggs
  - B. 1-2 eggs
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  - D. 8-10 eggs
- 8) What color are the crests on a blue jay's head?
  - A. Purple
  - B. Blue
  - C. Red
  - D. Green
- 9) Why do some people find blue jays annoying?
  - A. They eat too much
  - B. They eat crops
  - C. They build their nest in chimneys
  - D. Because of their loud calls
- 10) Where do blue jays build their nests?
  - A. On the ground
  - B. In burrows underground
  - C. In shrubs and bushes
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- 11) What are blue jays known to hide?
  - A. Nests
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- 12) What kind of beak does a blue jay have?
- A. Weak, white beak                      B. Strong, black beak  
C. Tiny, blue beak                        D. Large, yellow beak

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

- 13) "Look at my beak, it is so strong and black. I use it to pick up nuts, seeds and even small fruits."
- 14) "Our diets consist entirely of insects, no plants for us!"
- 15) "Did you know that I help forests grow? I bury seeds and forget some, allowing new trees to grow."
- 16) "I don't eat seeds or nuts."
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- 23) "We are mostly loners; we do not like sharing our lives with a partner."
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- 26) "I lay 4-5 eggs at a time and build my nest in a tree's fork. That's where I start my family."

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

- 27) Blue jays are known to mimic the calls of other birds.
- 28) The loud call of blue jays is quite irritating.
- 29) Blue jays stay with the same partner throughout their lives.
- 30) The way blue jays spread seeds and help grow new trees is incredible.
- 31) The blue color we see on the blue jay is due to the way light is scattered off the feathers.
- 32) Blue jays are more interesting than other birds because of their ability to mimic other calls.
- 33) Blue jays play a significant role in forest regeneration by burying seeds like acorns.
- 34) Blue jays have a diverse diet that includes insects, nuts, seeds, and small fruits.
- 35) The blue jay's color is absolutely stunning.
- 36) Seeing a blue jay in your backyard is one of the best things about living in a city.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 37) Blue jays have a diet that includes nuts and seeds.
- 38) Blue jays have poisonous talons that they use for defense.
- 39) Blue jays are able to mimic the calls of hawks.
- 40) Blue jays can be found in only cities.



- 41) Blue jays mate for life.
- 42) Blue jays only eat seeds.
- 43) Blue jays do not lay eggs. They give birth to live chicks.
- 44) Blue Jays are usually red in color with a touch of white on their wings.
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- 46) Blue jays can live in forests or cities.

**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 47) Blue jays are omnivorous birds and eat both plants and insects.
- 48) Why are blue jays called blue jays?
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- 51) Do blue jays migrate or stay in one place all year?
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- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          | 51. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 2. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          | 52. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 3. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |   |
| 4. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |   |
| 5. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |   |
| 6. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |   |
| 7. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |   |
| 8. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |   |
| 9. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 34. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |   |
| 10. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>     | 35. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |   |
| 11. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>     | 36. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |   |
| 12. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>     | 37. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |   |
| 13. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>  | 38. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |   |
| 14. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 39. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |   |
| 15. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>  | 40. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |   |
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| 22. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 47. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |   |
| 23. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 48. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |   |
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