

Name: _____

John James Audubon

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher



John James Audubon was born on April 26, 1785 in Haiti. John spent much of his childhood in France where he spent many hours outdoors painting the world around him. In 1803 he moved to the United States, and found the animals in his new home were among the most beautiful in the world. He particularly enjoyed observing the birds.



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sport, but he became more interested in the birds he encountered. He began studying them, trying to learn the differences between the species, and noticing their behaviors. He often sketched and painted the birds he was observing.

In 1819, John didn't have enough money to pay his bills, and his family went bankrupt. He was very upset that he couldn't earn enough money for his family to live on, so he spent time improving his painting skills and began to sell his pictures. He discovered that he could earn some money doing something he really enjoyed.

John declared that he intended to paint every bird species in North America.



John wanted to have his collection of bird paintings published. He found no one in America who was willing to publish his works, so in 1826, John headed for London, England. He and his paintings were well-received because it gave people in London an opportunity to see what wildlife in faraway America looked like.



It wasn't long before he was able to publish his masterpiece, *Birds of America*. Some people called his work the “Double Elephant Folio” because it was enormous! The pages were over three feet tall and over two feet wide. Audubon had so



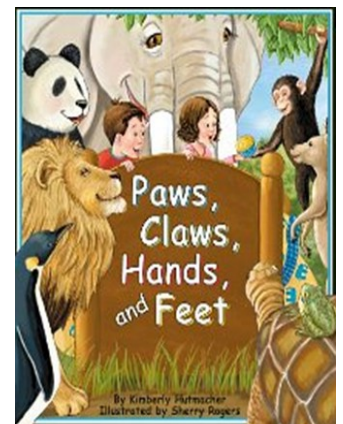
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About the the Author

Kimberly M. Hutmacher

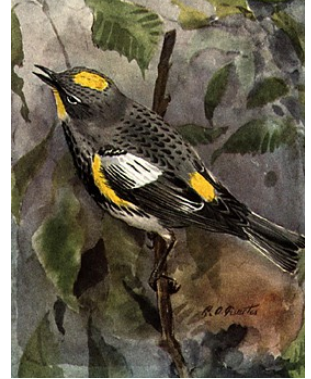
Kimberly M. Hutmacher is a children's book author who enjoys nature, animals, and science. She has written books about dogs, natural wonders, and animal adaptations. You may enjoy reading her latest picture book, *Paws, Claws, Hands, and Feet* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2009).



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1. What is John James Audubon most famous for?
 - a. Living in Haiti, France, United States, and England
 - b. Taking photographs of birds
 - c. Drawing sketches of fictional birds
 - d. Painting pictures of birds from North America
2. Why was Audubon's book set sometimes called "Double Elephant Folio"?
 - a. The books contained pictures of elephants.
 - b. The books were published in London, England.
 - c. The books contained paintings of birds.



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- a. to teach readers about birds
 - b. to share Audubon's autobiographical writings
 - c. to teach readers how to earn money
 - d. to make readers aware of a historical artist and naturalist
5. Read the following sentence from the passage and choose the best definition for the underlined word.

John declared that he intended to paint every bird species in North America.

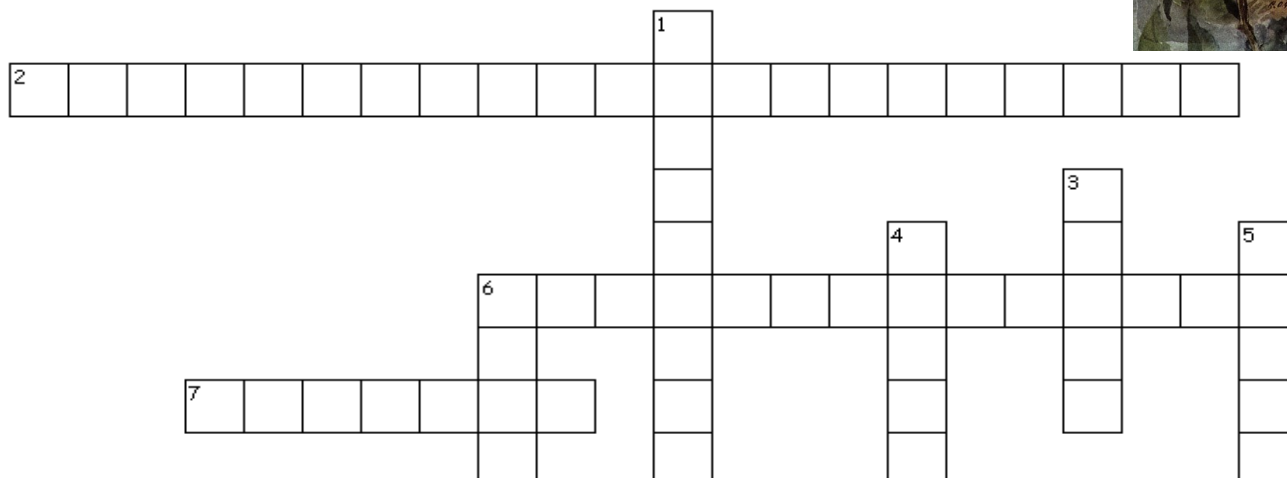
a. was able	b. wanted
c. hurried	d. carefully tried

Name: _____



John James Audubon

Crossword Puzzle



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Across

2. title of Kimberly Hutmacher's latest picture book
6. title of Audubon's book set
7. country Audubon traveled to search for a publisher
8. month during which John Audubon died
9. country where Audubon spent much of his childhood
10. country where Audubon was born

Down

1. country where Audubon lived when he created most of his artwork
3. month during which Audubon was born
4. type of artist who makes pictures on canvas
5. person who studies nature
6. In 1819, Audubon's family was...

ANSWER KEY

John James Audubon

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1. What is John James Audubon most famous for? **d**
 - a. Living in Haiti, France, United States, and England
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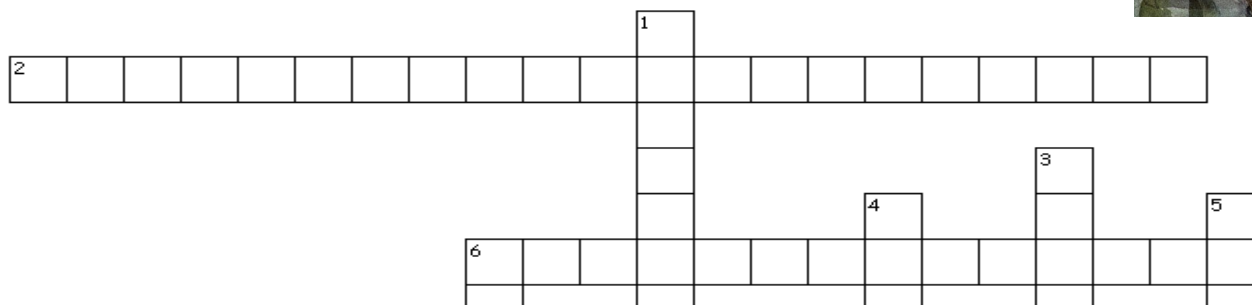


ANSWER KEY



John James Audubon

Crossword Puzzle



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10. country where Audubon was born
(Haiti)