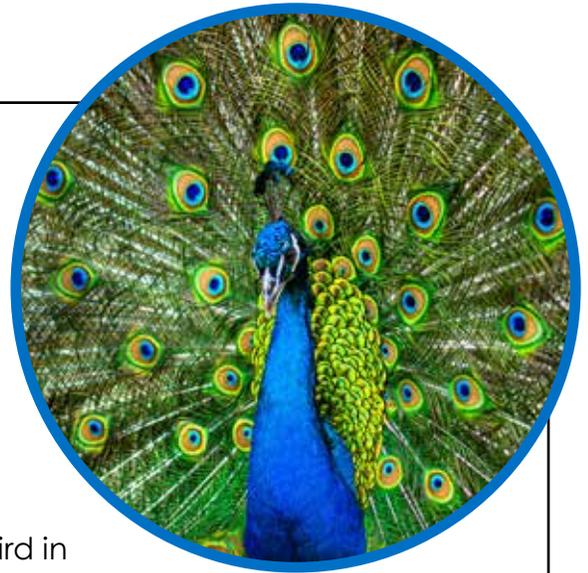


Name: _____

Pretty as a Peacock

By Guy Belleranti



Everyone knows peacocks are beautiful birds, but did you know that all peacocks are males? The smaller and much duller colored females are called peahens. Together, peacocks and peahens are called peafowl.

sacred bird in the Hindu religion?

The second major kind of peacock is the green peacock. This peacock lives east of India in the countries of Myanmar (Burma),

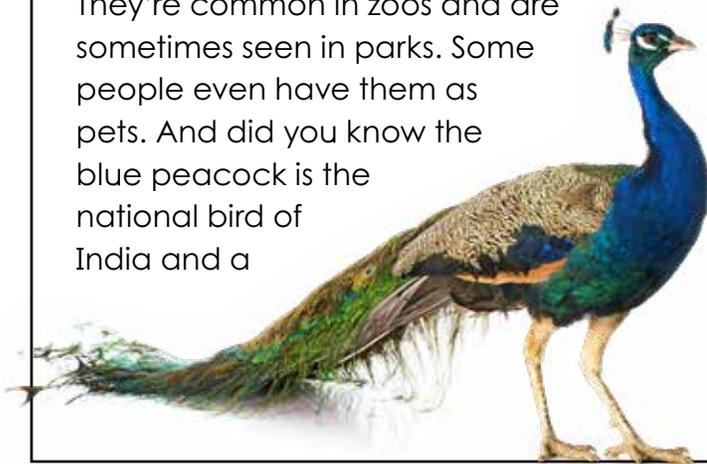


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the breeding season is over in late summer the peacock sheds these feathers. This is called molting. The next year it will grow a new train of beautiful tail feathers.

The peacock most of us are used to seeing is the Indian or blue peacock. They're common in zoos and are sometimes seen in parks. Some people even have them as pets. And did you know the blue peacock is the national bird of India and a



night, sometimes gathering into groups called parties. They have to watch out for predators like wild dogs and cats and even tigers and leopards. Peafowl can fly short distances to escape. They also make a lot of loud cries to warn others. A male peacock might even try to scare some predators by fanning out its tail to look larger.

A wild peacock usually has a harem of several peahens. The peahen lays three to eight eggs on the ground in dirt or leaves. These eggs are about three times larger than chicken eggs. The peahen incubates the eggs for 28 days and stays with the young until they are ready to care for themselves.

Name: _____

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1. Peacocks are usually...
 - a. more colorful than peahens
 - b. the largest species of bird
 - c. able to fly long distances
 - d. much larger than peafowl



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1. Alvin told his teacher that his grandpa has a farm with a green peacock on it. He said the peacock laid half-a-dozen eggs last weekend. His teacher said, "I don't believe this is true." Why doesn't Alvin's teacher believe him?

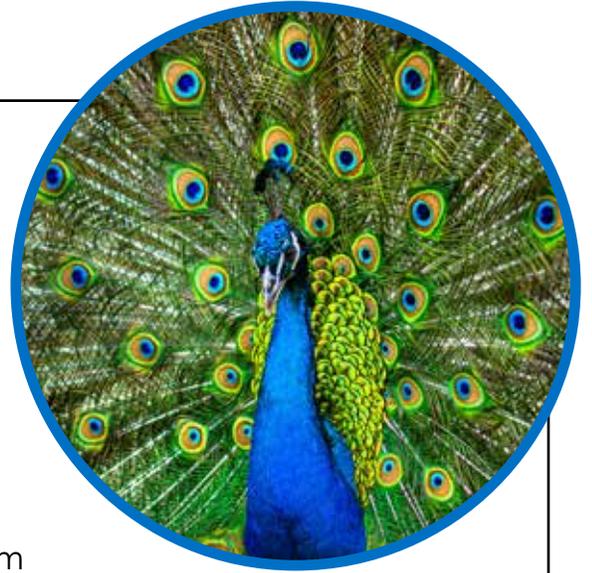
5. How long must a peahen incubate her eggs before they hatch?
 - a. about a week
 - b. about a month
 - c. a couple of months
 - d. Peahens do not incubate their eggs.
6. How do the eggs that are normally eaten by people compare to peafowl eggs?
 - a. The eggs people eat are usually larger than peafowl eggs.
 - b. The eggs people eat are usually smaller than peafowl eggs.
 - c. The eggs people eat are usually more colorful than peafowl eggs.
 - d. The eggs people eat are usually more lightweight than peafowl eggs.

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



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4. _____

b a c u s t i n e

hint: keeps warm

5. _____

r e s d a c

hint: holy; having to do with God

6. _____

e c k c n h i

hint: animals that lay most eggs eaten by people

7. _____

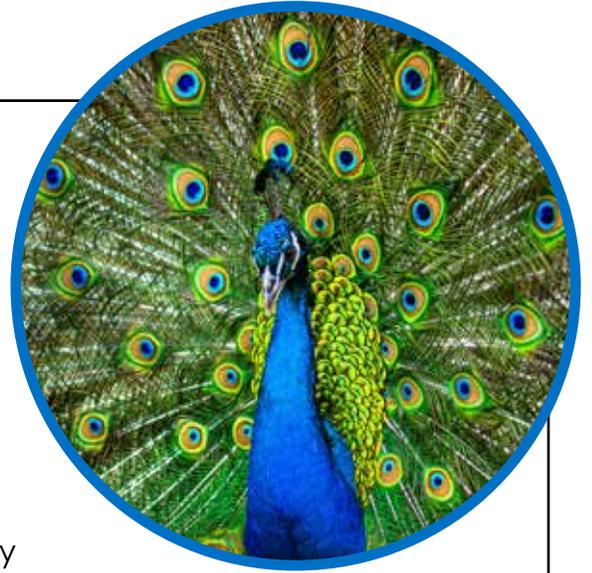
n d H i u

hint: major religion in India

Name: _____

Pretty as a Peacock

By Guy Belleranti



In the article, "Pretty as a Peacock," you learned many facts about peacocks and peahens. The author also mentions that some people have peafowl as pets.

Would you want a peacock as a pet? Explain why or why not.



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Pretty as a Peacock



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6. How do the eggs that are normally eaten by people compare to peafowl eggs?
- a. The eggs people eat are usually larger than peafowl eggs.
 - b. The eggs people eat are usually smaller than peafowl eggs.**
 - c. The eggs people eat are usually more colorful than peafowl eggs.
 - d. The eggs people eat are usually more lightweight than peafowl eggs.

Pretty as a Peacock



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7. _____ **Hindu** _____

hint: animals that lay most eggs eaten by people

n d H i u

hint: major religion in India