



“Why Do Birds Sing?”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages ⁽⁶⁾

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Why do birds sing? You might assume that birds sing because they are happy. While birds might be happy, they sing in order to communicate. One reason they sing is to stake a claim on territory. Birds sing to warn other birds to stay off their **property**. For example, a robin might stake a claim on a piece of land which measures about 200 feet wide by 200 feet long. This amount of land provides enough worms for the robin to feed its family. A bird maintains singing **perches** around the outside edges of its territory. The perches are high in the trees, so other birds can see and hear it. Birds also sing to find a mate. The length and **complexity** of the mating song gives information about the **fitness** of the bird. Healthy birds can sing longer, more complicated songs. Birds call to one another in shorter **vocalizations** in order to warn of danger and to locate one another. Birds sing instinctively. Young birds learn to perfect their songs by listening to adult birds and interacting with other birds. Birds in a local area might learn variations in the basic song which help them recognize other members of their group.

Questions:

Vocabulary:



1) Why do birds sing?

- A. To locate one another
- B. To warn other birds
- C. To find a mate
- D. All of the above

2) Birds perch very high so ...?

- A. other birds can hear them.
- B. other birds can see them.
- C. they can hide there.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

3) The health of a bird can be determined...

- A. by the length of its song.
- B. by the complexity of its song.
- C. by the volume of its song.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

4) Shorter bird vocalizations are ...

- A. territorial songs.
- B. mating songs.
- C. warnings.
- D. None of the above

5) Young birds perfect their songs by ...

- A. natural instinct.
- B. listening and interaction.
- C. practice.
- D. Both B and C are correct.

1) Someone’s **property** is ...

- A. claimed land.
- B. one’s own territory.
- C. the correct way to do something.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

2) A **perch** is a ...

- A. seat.
- B. branch.
- C. landing place.
- D. All of the above.

3) The **complexity** of the song is how ...

- A. long it is.
- B. loud it is.
- C. complicated it is.
- D. instinctive it is.

4) **Fitness** is ...

- A. health.
- B. danger.
- C. a song.
- D. a warning.

5) **Vocalizations** are ...

- A. bird perches.
- B. bird songs
- C. bird calls.
- D. Both B and C are correct.