

Reading ACAP 3rd

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

1. Read the opinion paragraph.

The play we saw last night was done very well. The woman who had the leading role made us laugh and cry. The costumes looked very natural. The play was good for all these reasons.

Which other reason could **best** be added to the paragraph to support the opinion stated in the first sentence?

- A. We saw the star of the play after it ended.
- B. I like when the lights go down and the curtain goes up.
- C. All the people in the play spoke their lines clearly.
- D. It is fun to see a story acted out on the stage.

2. Read the paragraph.

Flower bulbs are underground flower factories. People plant bulbs, water them, and then leave them alone. The bulbs grow and flower when they are ready. Bulbs are usually brown or tan and come in many sizes. If you were to cut a bulb in half and look inside, you would see where the plant stores the energy it needs to grow.

Which sentence would be the **best** conclusion for the paragraph?

- A. Bulbs have to be planted in a hole in the soil.
- B. Some flowers that come from bulbs are tulips and daffodils.
- C. Some flowers come from bulbs, and some come from seeds.
- D. Planting flower bulbs is a good way to grow a flower garden.

3. A student is writing a report about weather patterns. Choose **two** sources that would most likely have the **most** useful information for the report.
- A. a dictionary entry telling the basic meaning of the word "weather"
 - B. a book of pictures showing a photographer's favorite seasons
 - C. a magazine article about understanding the weather by watching the clouds
 - D. a chapter book about a year when winter lasted for only a week
 - E. a magazine article explaining a special weather trend that usually signals warm weather

The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

It is the beginning of summer, and you're enjoying the outdoors. From the corner of your eye, you glimpse a creature that is beating its wings so fast you can hardly see them moving. You think the creature might be a bee. A closer look reveals that it is a bird. It is a ruby-throated hummingbird.

Small and Vibrant

A ruby-throated hummingbird is small. It weighs less than one ounce and measures three to four inches from the tip of its beak to the end of its tail.

Its colors are vibrant. The males and the females look similar. Both have bright emerald-green heads, wings, backs, and tails. The birds are named for the ruby-red throats that the males have. The females, however, have white throats.

Expert Flyers

The ruby-throated hummingbird can be seen moving from one flower to the next while beating its wings more than 50 times per second. This rapid movement of the wings causes the humming noise that these birds are known for.

A hummingbird's wing has only one movable joint, which is the shoulder. This special joint and powerful flight muscles allow a hummingbird to fly in any direction. It zooms up, down, sideways, and backward. Its usual speed is 20 to 30 miles an hour. It can fly up to 50 miles an hour, which is a lot faster than many other birds.

Tasty Food

The ruby-throated hummingbird looks for tube-shaped flowers to get nectar, but it will visit other flowers if needed. The hummingbird hovers in front of a flower, places its beak into the center of the flower, and drinks the sweet liquid nectar.

Sometimes hummingbirds eat small bugs found on plant leaves, tree bark, and shrubs.

You might think ruby-throated hummingbirds eat only a small amount of food, but this would be incorrect. These birds can eat more than two times as much as they weight. Why do they eat so much? One reason is because of their constant activity. Another reason is to prepare for a long journey.

New Location

Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate hundreds of miles. They spend much of the spring and summer in southern Canada and in the eastern and Midwestern parts of the United State. Females build their nests and raise their families during this time.

At the end of the summer, the weather becomes cooler and their favorite flowers are probably no longer in bloom. So the hummingbirds prepare to migrate south.

They spend late fall and winter in Mexico and Central America, where the weather is warmer and food is available.

To prepare for this long journey, some hummingbirds may double their weight. This will give them the strength to fly more than 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico.

Our National Bird

In 1782, the bald eagle was name the national bird of the United States.

Thousands of bald eagles existed in North America at that time, so these birds were a common sight.

What Do Bald Eagles Look Like?

Balk eagles get their name from the Old English word “balde,” which means “white.” This is a fitting name since the heads of adult bald eagles are white. Adult bald eagles also have white tails, but the rest of their feathers are brown. Young bald eagles, however, have grayish-brown feathers covering their bodies. By the time young bald eagles reach the age of five, their heads and tails will have white feathers.

Both adult and young bald eagles have hooked beaks and yellow feet with talons, which they use to catch their food. Bald eagles can grow to be very large

birds, reaching about three feet in length from head to tail. When the wings of bald eagles are stretched out, they have a span of six to eight feet.

What Do Bald Eagles Eat?

Bald eagles can soar through the sky at about 30 miles per hour flapping their wings as little as possible to save energy. These birds have excellent eyesight and can spot food hundreds of feet away. After capturing their food, they often fly to a tree to eat it. Bald eagles prefer fish, but they will also eat small birds, mammals, or reptiles.

Where Do Bald Eagles Live?

Bald eagles are found only on the continent of North America. They can be seen from Canada to Mexico. They are found mainly in areas near large bodies of water with forests or cliffs nearby. Bald eagles are present year-round in many parts of the United States. Although bald eagles are seen in Canada during the summer, they move south during the winter to be near a source of open water.

The nests of bald eagles are among the largest built by any type of bird. Bald eagle nests are usually built in large trees that have limbs strong enough to support them. Located near the tops of trees, these nests are constructed with sticks and may be lined with grass and other soft materials. The nests are typically about five feet wide. Some bald eagle pairs use the same nest each year, adding sticks each time. The resulting nests often weigh more than 1,000 pounds.

Why Are Bald Eagles Protected?

The number of bald eagles began to decline in the 1800s. Although the numbers remained strong in Alaska, by the late 1960s, fewer than 1,000 bald eagles remained in the rest of the states. In many states, bald eagles were placed on the threatened or endangered species lists, and the bird were protected by laws. By 2007, the number of bald eagles had increased, and they were no longer considered endangered or threatened.

Bald eagles continue to be protected by laws in the United States. Their majestic appearance, long life, and great strength make them a national symbol of our country.

4. Under which heading in "The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird" can the reader learn about the movement of hummingbirds?
- A. Small and Vibrant
 - B. Expert Flyers
 - C. Tasty Food
 - D. New Location
5. Which sentence **best** states the main idea of "The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird"?
- A. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are named for the throat color of the male birds.
 - B. Ruby-throated hummingbirds can fly farther than many other types of birds.
 - C. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are special birds with interesting characteristics.
 - D. Ruby-throated hummingbirds spend much of their time traveling around the world.
6. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

According to "Our National Bird," why were bald eagles placed on the endangered species list?

- A. Very few bald eagles remained in most of the United States.
- B. Bald eagles were commonly seen soaring through the sky.
- C. Bald eagles were important to the people of the United States.
- D. The number of bald eagles in some areas remained strong.

7. **Part B**

Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer in part A?

- A. In 1782, the bald eagle was named the national bird of the United States.
- B. Bald eagles are found only on the continent of North America.
- C. Although bald eagles are seen in Canada during the summer, they move south during the winter. . .
- D. . . . by the late 1960s, fewer than 1,000 bald eagles remained in the rest of the states.

8. How are "The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird" and "Our National Bird" alike?

- A. Both passages explain how the birds are affected during a long journey.
- B. Both passages describe birds that have been protected by laws for years.
- C. Both passages give facts about birds that live in the same areas for much of the year.
- D. Both passages list the steps followed while choosing a bird as a national symbol.