Parrots

What is a Parrot? Imagine walking into your friend's kitchen. You call their name and ask, 'Where are you?' Then you hear your exact words echoed back to you in the same tone. You look around, expecting to see another person, but you notice a colorful bird in a cage instead. You are looking at a parrot!

Parrots are colorful birds that have large, hooked beaks, and some are known to copy the way people talk. There are more than 350 different kinds of parrots, but they all have some things in common with each other.

Parrots can get very old and usually live to be around 60. However, many live even longer than that, reaching about 100 years. That is a lot of candles on a birthday cake!

The smallest kind of parrot only grows to be about three and a half inches tall, which is less than half the length of an unsharpened pencil. The biggest parrot can grow to more than three feet tall.

All parrots have eight toes in all, with four on each foot. Two toes grow out forward and two point backward, making it easy for parrots to grab branches and push through thick leaves. These feet also make them great at climbing up the trunks of trees, and they are probably better at it than you are since all your toes face forward.

QUESTIONS

1) Parrots sometimes cause confusion because

A) they like to fly around the house.

B) they can speak like humans.

C) they like to steal food.

D) they can blend into the background.

2) What is said about the different kinds of parrots?

A) There are only 350 different kinds of parrots.

B) The oldest parrot lived 350 years ago.

C) There are more than 300 varieties of parrots.

D) There are 350 organisations which look after parrots.

3) Why are pencils mentioned when talking about parrots?

A) Because one type of parrot is smaller than a pencil.

B) Because a parrot was taught to write with a pencil.

C) Because they like chewing on them.

D) Because pencils are just the right size for parrots to sit on.

4) How are parrot feet different from human feet?

A) They have more toes than human feet.

B) They are much stronger than human feet.

C) They are longer than human feet.

D) They are more effective than human feet.

5) What would be a good introduction to this article?

A) Parrots are more than interesting pets. They come in all shapes and sizes and are great climbers.

B) Parrots need to be protected because their numbers in the wild are diminishing. Something needs to be done soon.

C) Scientists have managed to train a parrot to speak and have conversations with it. Some of the things it says are quite interesting.

D) A parrot has just won the record for being the fastest flyer. It's special wing structure means it can achieve incredible speeds.