

Birthday with the Birds

1. Chris loved to watch birds. He had several birdfeeders in his yard. He spent hours listening to their chirps and watching them eat seeds. For his birthday, his grandfather signed him up for a bird watching tour. Chris couldn't wait. He was excited to see new species of birds. He hoped to learn more about his favorite bird, the woodpecker.
2. The day of the tour came and Chris and his grandfather got up early. They went to the *Oak Tree Wildlife Refuge*. Their tour guide, Stephanie, talked to the group as they walked along the trail.
3. "Everything in this ecosystem interacts with one another. All of the living organisms are interrelated. That means they depend on one another. For example, look at the woodpecker over in that tree." Chris raised his binoculars and looked at the woodpecker. "The woodpecker depends on the insects that live in the trees. It is a carnivore. It eats insects like ants and termites," explained Stephanie.
4. Chris opened his notebook and began to write notes. Stephanie continued talking, "If many trees were cut down, the insect population would decrease. Then the woodpecker would have trouble finding food in its habitat. Woodpeckers are important. Their niche is to control the insect population within ecosystems."
5. Chris wrote more notes and then asked a question. "How does a woodpecker not fall off of the tree? It's so high up."
6. "That's a good question, Chris. That's because of its structural adaptations," Stephanie replied. "Animals have physical adaptations. The adaptations help them live in their habitat. The woodpecker has a long neck and a heavy, pointed beak. It uses them to make holes in trees. The woodpecker uses its long tongue to reach the insects inside the wood. It has specially adapted feet to help it hang on to trees. Two toes face forward. The other two toes face backwards. Most birds only have three toes."
7. Another person in the tour group asked, "Do the woodpeckers migrate?"
8. "That's another good question. Migration is a behavioral adaptation many animals use to survive. Many birds migrate to find food or warmer weather. Some migrate to have babies. This woodpecker does not migrate though," said Stephanie.
9. Chris was learning a lot about the woodpecker. He had many notes written down. He thought of one more question. "Do the woodpeckers eat plants or seeds like the birds do in my backyard?"



10. "Plants are producers that make their own food," said Stephanie. The ants and termites that the woodpecker eats get their energy by eating wood from trees. The woodpecker then eats the ants and termites. This is called the food chain. It shows how energy flows from one living organism to another." Chris wrote down a few more notes.
11. "Let's continue walking and find some other birds," said Stephanie. We might see a Red-Tailed Hawk if we are lucky." Stephanie began walking on the trail, and the group followed.
12. Chris smiled at his grandfather. He was glad his grandfather gave him such a great birthday gift.

Main Idea

1. Which sentence tells what the passage is mostly about?

- A. Woodpeckers eat insects.
- B. A boy saw a bird in his backyard.
- C. A boy learns about birds for his birthday.
- D. Woodpeckers have structural adaptations.

2. A student wrote these notes about woodpeckers.

Woodpecker's Structural Adaptations
• long neck
• _____
• strong beak
• four toes

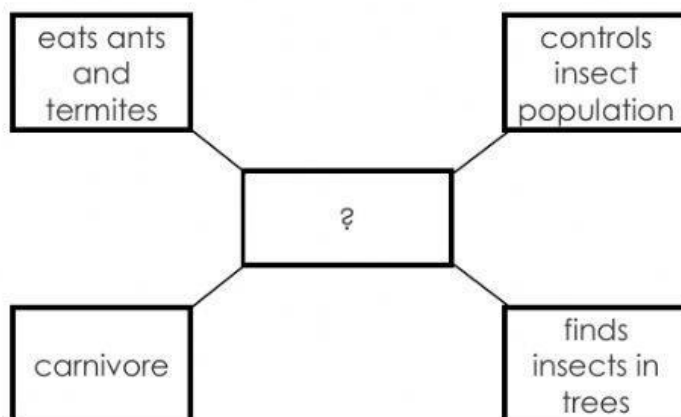
Which of the following completes the list?

- A. does not migrate
- B. long tongue
- C. eats insects
- D. carnivore

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 6?

- A. Woodpeckers are interesting birds.
- B. Woodpeckers help control insect populations.
- C. Woodpeckers have many adaptations.
- D. Chris learned a lot about woodpeckers.

4. Complete this web.



- A. A Woodpecker's Habitat
- B. The Diet of the Woodpecker
- C. Reasons a Woodpecker Migrates
- D. Structural Adaptations of the Woodpecker

5. The author wrote paragraph 1 to tell you –

- A. what Chris learned about the woodpecker
- B. the animals in the *Oak Tree Wildlife Refuge*
- C. about the woodpeckers adaptations
- D. that Chris loved birds