18 Listen and read. TR: 10

Why Do Mockingbirds Copy?

Mockingbirds live in North and South America. They are good copycats. They imitate other birds. But they can also imitate other animals. They can even make sounds that resemble a piano or car alarm. Mockingbirds learn to sing many songs. Some learn more than 200 different songs. They can often trick people! But they can't trick other birds. If mockingbirds can't trick other birds, why do they copy sounds? They do it to attract and avoid other birds!

Males are loud singers and they sing many songs. They always sing when they want to meet females. A male bird can sing most of the day and night. The singing attracts females. But it also keeps away other males. The longer a mockingbird lives, the more songs it knows. To show this characteristic, the male mockingbird sings all the songs it knows. A female mockingbird is attracted to a male who has lived a long time.

Mockingbirds usually sing short songs. They sing each sound several times. Then they move to the next sound. Female mockingbirds sing softly and less often than males. They usually sing at their nests in the winter to keep away other birds. When another bird comes near, the mockingbird makes a loud noise to frighten it.

It's amazing that the mockingbird can copy so many songs of other birds. Some songs are not easy to learn. The mockingbird must listen well to imitate the sounds. But a mockingbird also has good eyes and a good memory. When a person comes near its nest, the mockingbird remembers that person. It knows that person's face even after many years!

19 Tick T for *True* or F for *False*.

1. The female mockingbird sings more often than the male. (T) (F)
2. When a mockingbird imitates, it often tricks other birds. (T) (F)
3. The female mockingbird sings to attract the male. (T) (F)
4. Mockingbirds can remember human beings. (T) (F)

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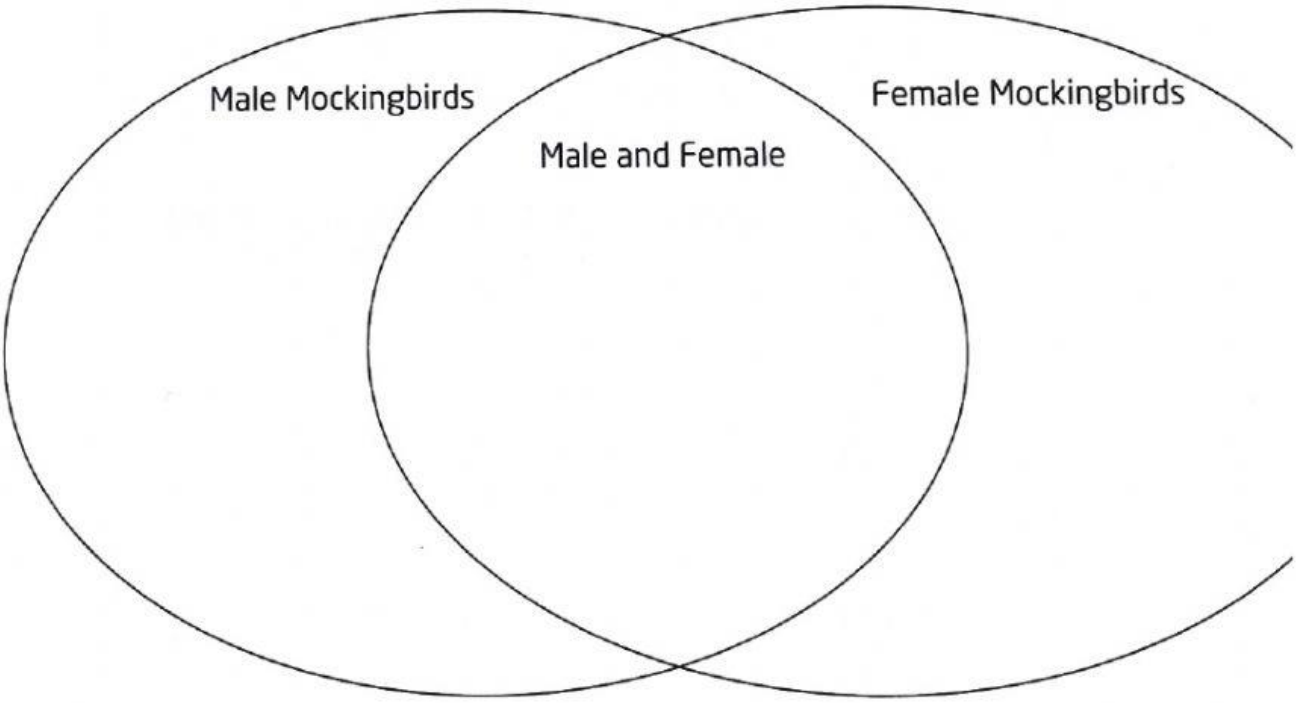
20 Tick what you learned from the text.

Mockingbird characteristic	Male	Female
1. Live in South America		
2. Imitate other birds		
3. Are loud singers		
4. Always sing many songs		
5. Sing to attract		
6. Sing to keep other birds away		

21 List the facts that you know about the lives of mockingbirds.

Use the text in Activity 18 and the chart in Activity 20.



22 Answer the questions in your notebook.

1. What is the most interesting fact that you learnt about mockingbirds?
2. What other animals can imitate sounds?

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