



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE PEACOCK

The peacock is known as a beautiful bird that fans its feathers in colorful display. Did you know that the male peacock is the only one with these beautiful feathers? The female peahen has very dull colored feathers such as dull green, brown, and gray. The male is known as the peacock and the female is known as the peahen. Both males and females are commonly called peacocks.

The peacock is omnivorous, which means that it eats both plants and animals. Peacocks typically consume plant parts, seeds, and flower petals. They also eat small reptiles, small snakes, arthropods, and amphibians. The peacock has spurs on its feet that help protect it from predators.

The feathers on the “tail” of the male peacock are iridescent blue-green and green. It is striking to see the full plumage of the male peacock. When not in use, the train of the peacock trails on the ground behind the body. The peacock displays its feathers when it is startled or in danger.

The peacock is native to India and Sri Lanka. It builds a shallow nest made of sticks, leaves, and branches. These nests are often found in the undergrowth. The peahen will lay anywhere from one to four eggs. These beautiful birds do not migrate.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you infer about the peacock after reading this passage?
  - a. Peacocks are shy animals.
  - b. Peacocks can reach speeds up to 35 mph.
  - c. Peacocks keep moving, as they are nomadic animals.
  - d. Peacocks are worth looking at when at a zoo.
2. Which of the following can be verified after reading the passage?
  - a. The peacock can run very quickly.
  - b. The peacock is an extinct animal.
  - c. The peacock engages in social activity.
  - d. The peacock is an interesting animal and has an interesting history.
3. Peacocks are native to which of the following places?
  - a. farms and ranches
  - b. zoos and animal parks
  - c. India and Sri Lanka
  - d. none of the above