

Grade 4 Practice Test: Reading Comprehension (Nonfiction: Long Passage)



REMIINDER: Remember to take time to reread parts of the passage if you need to.

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions. Stop at the end of the test.

Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes. There are many factors that influence the building of a bird's nest. Birds gather building materials from the region where they live. So, nests in different regions will look different. A bird's features also play a role in how it builds its nest. Birds with strong beaks can carve a nest out of wood. If the bird has a softer beak, it might gather leaves or straw. Bird nests are as different as the birds who build them.

Many birds burrow their nests into tree trunks and branches. The woodpecker looks for old trees that are starting to die. The wood is soft and easy to peck away. They use their beaks to carve a hole, or cavity, into the tree. This becomes the nest. The female hornbill also builds her nest inside a tree cavity. After the female bird lays her eggs inside the cavity, the male bird closes up the hole. The female stays inside the sealed-up cavity to protect the eggs. The male returns to the nest and delivers food to the female.

Tropical birds live in rainy forests with lots of hungry snakes. They use twigs and branches to build hanging nests. These nests look like small bags hanging from the tree branches. Their shape helps protect them from rain and keeps out the snakes. Some hanging nests even have a fake entrance to trick snakes.

Robins make simple nests from soft materials. They often line an old cup with paper, grass, or straw. Then, they hide their nest away in a small nook like a windowsill or bush. Seabirds, on the other hand, must build their nests out in the open. The sand makes a perfect nest for their eggs. They might bury the eggs or just lay them in a big group right on the shore.

Birds share a common purpose in building their nests—to protect themselves and their eggs. But because birds are so different from each other, their homes end up looking very different. A bird's home shows us a lot about the type of bird that lives in it!

1. Which is the best title for the passage?

- (A) How to Build a Bird's Nest
- (B) Woodpeckers and Hornbills
- (C) Different Birds, Different Nests
- (D) Birds and Their Eggs

2. In the first paragraph, what does the phrase "there are many factors that influence" mean?

- (A) many excuses can be given for
- (B) there are lots of ways to explain
- (C) there are many numbers that add up
- (D) there are many things that affect

3. Which is not one of the birds discussed in the passage?

- (A) woodpecker
- (B) hornbill
- (C) hummingbird
- (D) robin

4. What happens after the female hornbill builds her nest?

- (A) The male bird pecks out a cavity.
- (B) She delivers food to the baby birds.
- (C) She seals her eggs inside the cavity.
- (D) The male seals the female inside with the eggs.

Grade 4 Practice Test: (continued)

5. Which phrase belongs in the blank box?

- (A) paper cup
- (B) bush
- (C) sandy shore
- (D) windowsill

| BIRD | NEST LOCATION |
|---------------|---------------|
| woodpecker | tree cavity |
| tropical bird | tree branches |
| seabird | |

6. In paragraph 2, what is a "cavity"?

- (A) hollowed part of a tree
- (B) hole in a tooth
- (C) fake entrance in a nest
- (D) sealed-up hole

7. Which statement is true about tropical birds?

- (A) Their hanging nests protect them from rain and snakes.
- (B) They seal up their hanging nests to keep out snakes.
- (C) They build nests inside small bags.
- (D) Their nests hang from windowsills.

8. Why do woodpeckers build their nests in older, dying trees?

- (A) Older trees are more secluded.
- (B) There are more twigs and branches.
- (C) There are fewer snakes in an old tree.
- (D) The bark is soft and easy to carve.

9. Which of the following is not true about seabirds?

- (A) They make a nest with a fake entrance.
- (B) They bury their eggs in the sand.
- (C) They make nests out in the open.
- (D) They live near the sea.

10. Which sentence expresses the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Bird nests are as unique as the different birds that build them.
- (B) Many birds burrow their nests into tree trunks and branches.
- (C) The sand makes a perfect nest for their eggs.
- (D) Birds share a common purpose in building their nests.

11. All the birds discussed in this passage build nests in order to

- (A) show how they are different.
- (B) protect themselves and their eggs.
- (C) protect themselves from the rain.
- (D) keep away from snakes.