

Primary Worksheets: Ostrich



The Ostrich is the tallest and the heaviest of all birds but does not fly. They can grow to be over nine feet tall and weigh around 350 pounds when they are a fully grown adult.

Ostriches live in the African Savannah, the only place they can be found in the wild in the world.

No matter what the temperature of their environment, an ostrich will always be at the same temperature as they can regulate their body temperature.

They cannot fly but can run at incredible speeds! They have long powerful legs that can reach single strides of 5 metres and speeds of 70km per hour!



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Ostriches live in groups called herds, that can be up of around 12. Male ostriches will compete with another to become leader of the herd and for control of the female ostriches. In every herd there is also a dominant hen.

The male ostrich makes a nest in the ground and attracts females by dancing! The female ostrich (hen) will lay their eggs in the nest and can lay up to 11 eggs! They are the largest eggs in the world, averaging around 15cm long and weighing up to 1.5kg.

The dominant hen and the leader male will look after the nest, taking turns to incubate the eggs. After around 40 days, the chicks will hatch. Within days they are able to leave the nest as they will be able to walk. Their parents will keep them safe by huddling them under their body. After 18 months, the chicks will have become fully grown adults.



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Ostriches are omnivores, meaning that they will eat both plants and meat. They sometimes eat seeds and grain but prefer insects and small animals if they can find them.

Although they are the largest bird in the world, they do not have a big brain! This is mainly because there is not enough room for their eyes. They have the biggest eyes of any land animal.

Ostriches can be very dangerous. Their legs are powerful enough to kill lions with a single kick! Their feet have two toes with a large razor-sharp claw on it. Usually, birds have three or four toes!

Did you know that ostriches don't actually put their heads in the ground to hide from danger? They lay as flat as possible from afar which makes it look like they are putting their head in the ground!



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Answer the questions.

What is an ostrich?

What do they eat?

Why are they dangerous?



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Answer the questions.

Where can we find them?

How fast are they and why?

What is special about their eggs?

