Imagine a bird with a royal blue coat and a crest on its head that can stand up or lay flat, can you picture it? That's a blue jay for you! These wonderful creatures are not just blue, but also have white bellies and black neck collars around their necks. They have strong, black beaks and bold black markings around their eyes. Did you know that blue jays are not really blue? The 'blue' we see is actually an effect of the way light is scattered off the tiny structures of the feathers.



Now that we can picture our feathered friends, let's talk about where they live and what they eat. Blue jays are quite versatile and can live in forests, cities and even in your backyard. When it comes to food, they have a varied diet including insects, nuts, seeds and even small fruits. They are also known to hide food to eat later, a habit known as 'caching'.

Our blue feathered friends not only have interesting eating habits, but also have a fascinating lifecycle and relationship with other creatures. Blue jays mate for life, and they build their nests in the fork of a tree where the female lays 4-5 eggs. They are also known to mimic the calls of hawks, maybe to scare away other birds or just for fun! While some people find their loud calls annoying, many others enjoy their lively presence and their role in spreading tree seeds.



Speaking of their role in seed dispersal, this is one of the ways blue jays interact with their environment and make a difference. They play a crucial role in forest regeneration as they bury acorns and other seeds and forget some of them, allowing new trees to grow. Blue jays also have a unique defense mechanism. When threatened, they can make a lot of noise to scare away predators. So not only are blue jays beautiful, they are also quite the seed spreaders and protectors of their homes!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What is the name for the habit blue jays have of hiding food to eat later?

A. Hoarding

B. Sharing

C. Caching

D. Burying

2) Which do blue jays eat?

A. Grass, bark and plants

B. Rocks, gems and stones

C. Meat and fish

D. Nuts, seeds, and small fruits

3) What color is the belly of a blue jay?

A. White

B. Green

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D. Black

4) What role do blue jays play in forest regeneration?

A. They scare other birds away from

B. They keep the forest floor clean of

C. They bury acorns and other seeds which allows new trees to grow

D. They eat all the seeds preventing new trees from growing

5) What sound do blue jays mimic to scare away other birds?

A. The calls of eagles

B. The calls of owls

C. The calls of falcons

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6) Which place do blue jays not usually live?

A. Cities

B. Beaches

C. Backyards

D. Forests

7) What is the number of eggs a female blue jay lays?

A. 4-5 eggs

B. 6-7 eggs

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8) What color are the crests on a blue jay's head?

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9) Why do some people find blue jays annoying?

A. Because of their loud calls

B. They build their nest in chimneys

C. They eat crops

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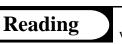
11) What are blue jays known to hide?

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- **12**) What kind of beak does a blue jay have?
 - A. Large, yellow beak

B. Weak, white beak

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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 13) "Look at my beak, it is so strong and black. I use it to pick up nuts, seeds and even small fruits."
- 14) "Our diets consist entirely of insects, no plants for us!"
- 15) "Did you know that I help forests grow? I bury seeds and forget some, allowing new trees to grow."
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Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 27) Blue jays are known to mimic the calls of other birds.
- **28**) The loud call of blue jays is quite irritating.
- **29)** Blue jays stay with the same partner throughout their lives.
- **30)** The way blue jays spread seeds and help grow new trees is incredible.
- 31) The blue color we see on the blue jay is due to the way light is scattered off the feathers.
- 32) Blue jays are more interesting than other birds because of their ability to mimic other calls.
- 33) Blue jays play a significant role in forest regeneration by burying seeds like acorns.
- 34) Blue jays have a diverse diet that includes insects, nuts, seeds, and small fruits.
- 35) The blue jay's color is absolutely stunning.
- **36)** Seeing a blue jay in your backyard is one of the best things about living in a city.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

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- 41) Blue jays mate for life.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 47) Blue jays are omnivorous birds and eat both plants and insects.
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		Blue Jay		Name:	
1.	 . 26		51.		
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3.	 28				
4.	 . 29				
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7.	 32				
8.	 33				
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Blue Jay Name: Answer Key

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Blue Jay

Name:

interrogative

interrogative

51.

52.

Answer Key

			Dide say
1.	C	26.	true
2.	D	27.	fact
3.	A	28.	opinion
4.	C	29.	fact
5.	D	30.	opinion
6.	B	31.	fact
7.	A	32.	opinion
8.	D	33.	fact
9.	A	34.	fact
10.	D	35.	opinion
11.	C	36.	opinion
12.	D	37	true
13.	true	38.	false
14.	false	39.	true
15.	true	40.	false
16.	false	41.	true
17.	true	42.	false
18.	false	43.	false
19.	false	44.	false
20.	false	45.	true
21.	true	46.	true
22.	false	47	declarative
23.	false	48.	interrogative
24.	false	49.	declarative
25.	false	50.	declarative



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Blue Jay

Name:

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