

# Macaws

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The macaw is a bird that is part of the parrot family. Macaws are known for their bright colors like red, yellow, and blue. They are also known for their special talent. Macaws can mimic human speech! This means they can copy things people say.

Macaws live in the rainforest, and they can live up to eighty years. They eat nuts, seeds, and berries, which they find in the forest. They use their hard beaks to help them crack the nuts, and they can also use their tongue because it has a bone in it! This makes it strong.

These colorful birds help the rainforest by spreading the seeds of plants as they crack open nuts, seeds, and berries. This helps new plants grow. This preserves the rainforests.

Macaws might be small or large. Some weigh less than a pound and are shorter than twelve inches. Others can weigh several pounds and grow to be three or more feet tall. No matter their size, they all have strong toes, which they use to grab branches. They also have long, colorful tails of feathers.

These birds travel in big groups called flocks. They mate for life, and female birds lay the eggs while male birds hunt for food. They speak to each other by

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making loud squawks or calls, and they sleep in flocks in the trees.

Macaws can be seen in zoos around the world. They can also be found for sale in pet stores. People like the macaw's bright colors. They also like the way they can speak.

Some types of this bird are fading away. This means not enough are being born. Soon, they might be gone from the wild. It is important to protect this beautiful bird.

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1) What type of bird is the macaw?

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2) What is the special talent that macaws have?

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3) Match each cause to its effect.

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| a) The tongue of macaws has a bone in it. | ● | ● They can easily crack open the nuts. |
| b) Macaws spread the seeds of plants.     | ● | ● The tongue is strong.                |
| c) Macaws have hard beaks.                | ● | ● It helps new plants grow.            |

4) Which of the following structures does the text use?

- a) compare-contrast
- b) sequential
- c) descriptive

5) Why is it important to protect macaws?

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