

TOPIC: A Duck Says Quack?

Facts About Ducks

- Ducks are a type of Aquatic Bird or a waterfowl.
- Ducks can be found in salt water or fresh water.
- Ducks are great swimmers because of their webbed feet but many ducks can fly as high as airplanes do.



Mallard Ducks Flying

- Ducks can also be domesticated and are farmed.
 - They are raised for their eggs, meat or down feathers.
 - These ducks are usually all white or brown and they are much bigger than ducks you would see in a pond, or lake.



- Ducks are omnivores which are non-meat eaters.
 - They eat grass, aquatic plants, insects, seeds, fruit and fish.
 - Sometimes ducks even eat small rocks or pebbles. They store these hard objects in their gizzards and use it to help in digestion.
- Male ducks are called drakes and they actually are a very quiet animal. Drakes make small grunts or squeaks to communicate
- Female ducks or hens as they are called are the one that make the loud "Quacking" noise. Female ducks are very vocal.
- Baby ducks are called ducklings.



Baby Duckling



Preening Duck

- Ducks don't have blood vessels in their webbed feet so they don't feel cold.
- For the rest of the bodies ducks have waterproof feathers.
 - They coat their feathers with a waxy coating which is produced near their tail called the uropygial gland.
 - Ducks spread this waxing coating all over their feathers by preening themselves.
 - Preening is cleaning their feathers of any dust or dirt and then spreading this waxy coating around to all of their feathers. These keeps ducks warm and dry

Science Experiment

Let's do a science experiment to learn how ducks feathers are waterproof.

You will need:

- crayons
- blue food coloring
- an empty squirt bottle filled with water
- a printed copy of a coloring page duck

1. Color your duck picture using waxy crayons. Remember no two ducks look alike so get creative.
2. Once your duck is colored mix a few drops of blue food coloring in your squirt bottle filled with water. Spray your duck picture with a few squirts.
3. Do you see it? The blue water repels off the wax and keeps it dry just like a real ducks feather would!

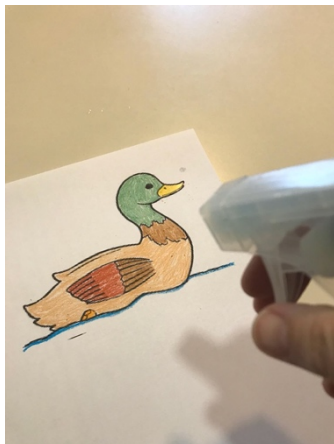
Materials



1

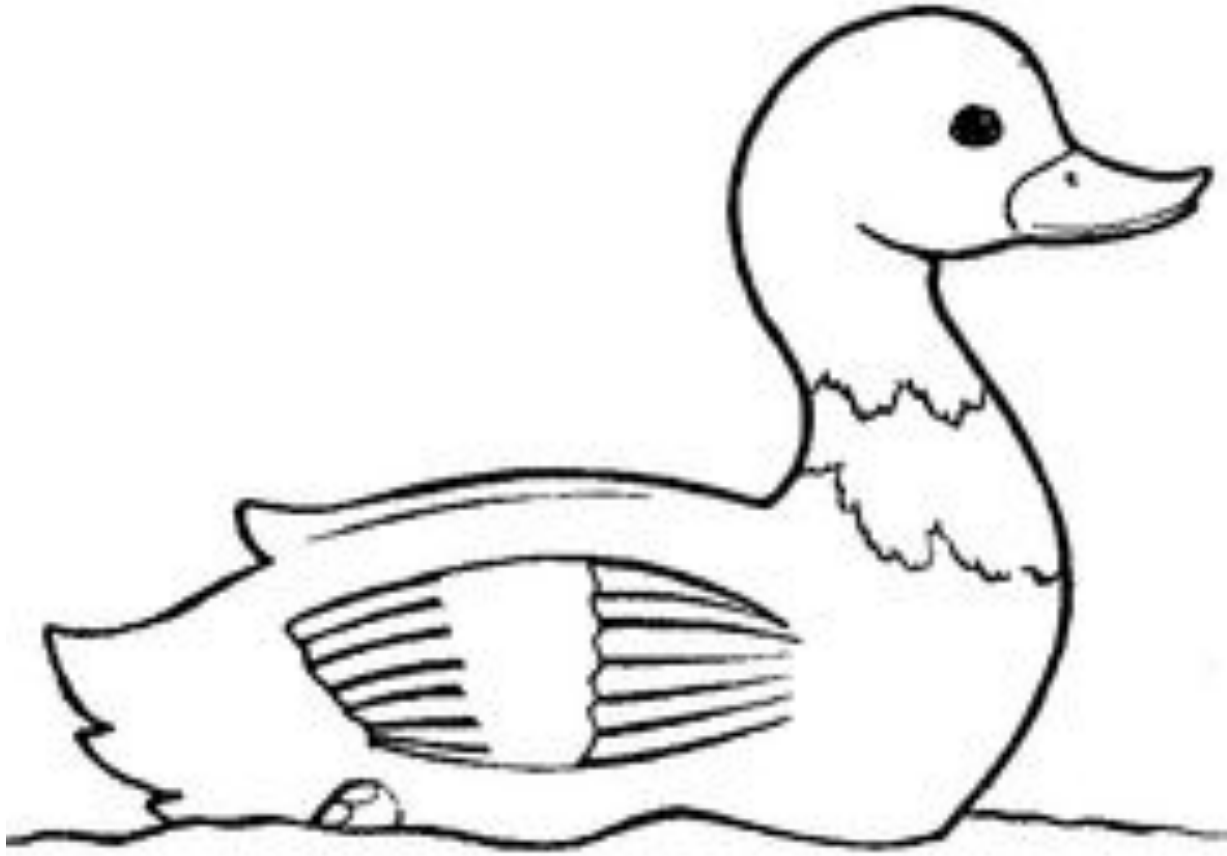


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Fun facts

- There are many famous duck stories in children literature and famous duck characters in cartoons and movies. Ducks are perfect for storytelling with their silly web feet that make them wobble, colorful feathers, and the noises they make.
 - Can you name a famous duck character?
- Did you know that sports teams have even used a duck as their mascot.

Video Read A Long

- A Classic Tale called *Make way for Ducklings*: <https://bit.ly/3csxFfr>

Duck Reads

The Loudoun County Public Library has these books that you can download.

- *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon: <https://bit.ly/3coblhB>
- *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin: <https://bit.ly/2Kcuoon>
- *The Story of Ping* by Marjorie Flack: <https://bit.ly/2VzKoGp>
- *How Ducks Grow up* by Linda Bozzo: <https://bit.ly/2Kaxp8P>