

Reading for Speed & Content

Grades 2-3

REM 1040

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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15887 N. 76TH STREET • SUITE 120 • SCOTTSDALE, AZ • 85260



INTRODUCTION

Reading for Speed & Content is designed to exercise and build several reading skills. The topics were chosen for their high interest appeal and most address nonfiction subjects. Each activity consists of four sections:

Vocabulary: Before reading, students review words they will come across as they read and use them in sentences to assure understanding of meanings.

Reading: Stories vary from approximately 100-400 words in length and are ordered according to reading level difficulty (based on a combination of vocabulary difficulty, word length, and sentence length) from easiest to hardest. They may be used as timed reading exercises if you choose.

Comprehension: Each story is followed by several comprehension questions.

Cloze Reading: A full page of cloze (fill-in-the-blank) sentences test comprehension and the ability to use context clues to choose the correct word.

An Answer Key has been provided for your use. Students should be encouraged to use complete sentences for answers.

If stories are used to develop students' reading speed, there are two options:

1. Have students read the entire story. Keep track of the amount of time this takes (minutes and seconds).

Have them enter their time and number of words read in the spaces provided at the end of each story. Use these figures to find words per minute on the *Timed Reading Chart* (see pg. 43).

2. Set a time limit for reading the story. Stop the students when the time is up.

Have them enter the number of words read and the time in the spaces provided. Use the figures to find words per minute on the Chart.

Word counts are provided at the end of every line in the story so that the number of words read can be determined quickly and easily. A *Keeping Track* record sheet is included so students may see their improvement in reading rate.

Stories may be reproduced for use with groups of any size or as independent exercises.

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Use the words from the box to complete the sentences.

1. The _____ is the largest kind of bird.
2. Tin does not _____ as much as gold.
3. All birds have _____.
4. The _____ is a good swimmer.
5. A baby chick _____ from the egg.
6. The child hid _____ the bushes.

WORDS TO KNOW

behind	be • hind
feathers	feath • ers
hatched	hatched
ostrich	os • trich
penguin	pen • guin
weigh	weigh

Birds

There are many, many kinds of birds. Big ones, small ones, pretty ones, and dull ones. They are all alike in some ways. They have feathers, wings, and two legs. Their young are hatched from eggs.

Not all birds can fly. The penguin is one that cannot fly. His body is too big for his small wings. He uses his wings to paddle in water. The ostrich cannot fly. But his long legs make him a fast runner. He can run up to 50 miles an hour!

Birds cannot move their eyes. We can move ours. We can look up, down, or to the side without moving our heads. Birds can't do that. They must turn their whole head. Some can turn their head all the way around! That's how they look behind them. They can see very well. Some birds can see 100 times better than people at night.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued)

The smallest bird in the world is only 2-1/4 inches long. 161
162

That's this long. |—————| 165

His body is only 1/2 inch long. The rest is tail and 177
beak. It would take 18 of these little birds to weight as 189
much as one mouse. 193

The largest bird is the ostrich. It can weigh as much 204
as 350 pounds. Its egg is eight inches long and weighs 215
3-1/2 pounds. 218

WORDS READ	TIME	WORDS PER MINUTE

-
- Name three ways all birds are alike. _____

 - Name two birds that cannot fly. _____

 - What can we do that birds cannot do? _____

 - How small is the smallest bird? _____
 - How much does an ostrich egg weigh? _____
 - What is the largest bird? _____
 - How much can it weigh? _____

WORDS

all	hatched	look	two
birds	heads	move	water
fly	legs	small	wings

Fill in the blanks using the words in the box above.

1. There are many, many kinds of _____ .
2. There are big ones, _____ ones, pretty ones, and dull ones.
3. They all have feathers, wings, and _____ legs.
4. Their young are _____ from eggs.
5. Not all birds can _____ .
6. The penguin can't fly because his body is too big for his small _____ .
7. He uses his wings to paddle in _____ .
8. The ostrich cannot fly, but his long _____ make him a fast runner.
9. Birds cannot _____ their eyes, but we can move ours.
10. We can look up, down, or to the side without moving our _____ .
11. Birds must turn their whole head to _____ in a different direction.
12. Some birds can turn their head _____ the way around and look behind them.