



Imagine a bird that's a beautiful blend of green, brown, and blue - that's exactly what a mallard looks like! These eye-catching birds have an iridescent green head, a white collar, and a chestnut-brown chest. Their wings are speckled with blue and white, and they have a yellowish-orange bill with black markings. And the most fun part? The males and females look different - the males are the ones with the shiny green heads, while the females are a speckled brown all over.

Now that we know how they look, let's explore where these colourful birds live. Mallards can be found in a wide variety of habitats all over the world, including parks, small ponds, rivers, lakes and even in urban areas. These adaptable ducks don't mind where they live, as long as there's water and plenty of food. Speaking of food, they eat a wide variety of things like insects, worms, grass, and even small fish!

From their homes and diets, let's move on to the life of a mallard. These birds have a fascinating life cycle that starts when a female lays her eggs in a nest she's built near water. After about a month, the baby ducklings hatch, and they can leave the nest just a few hours after hatching! In just two months, those little ducklings grow up and learn to fly, starting their own journey as mallards.



Mallards have interesting relationships with humans and other animals. People often enjoy feeding them in parks, but it's important to remember that bread isn't good for them! With other animals, they often share their habitats peacefully, but they're also known to play tricks on predators like foxes and hawks by pretending to be injured to lead them away from their nests. So next time you see a mallard, remember it's not just a pretty bird, but also a clever and adaptable part of our natural world.



**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What color is the bill of a mallard bird?
 - A. Green with yellow stripes
 - B. Blue with white rings
 - C. Black and white
 - D. Yellowish-orange
- 2) What colors can you find on a mallard?
 - A. Pink, gray, and silver
 - B. Purple, orange, and white
 - C. Green, brown, and blue
 - D. Red, black, and yellow
- 3) What is the color of a female mallard?
 - A. Green
 - B. Yellow
 - C. Blue
 - D. Brown
- 4) When can the ducklings leave their nest?
 - A. After 6 months
 - B. A few hours after hatching
 - C. Two months after hatching
 - D. After one month
- 5) What type of food is not good for mallards?
 - A. Grass
 - B. Bread
 - C. Fish
 - D. Insects
- 6) What color are the males' heads in mallard birds?
 - A. Green
 - B. Brown
 - C. Yellow
 - D. Blue
- 7) Where do mallard birds build their nests?
 - A. Underground
 - B. They do not build nests
 - C. In trees
 - D. Near water
- 8) How long do the eggs take to hatch once a female mallard lays them?
 - A. About a week
 - B. About a year
 - C. About a day
 - D. About a month
- 9) If you were looking for mallards in the wild, where would be the best place to look?
 - A. Caves
 - B. Lakes
 - C. Mountains
 - D. Deserts
- 10) How long does it take for the ducklings to learn to fly?
 - A. Immediately after hatching
 - B. Two months
 - C. One month
 - D. Three months

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

- 11) "When it's time for us to become parents, the female lays her eggs in a nest near the water."
- 12) "I lure predators away from my nest by pretending I'm hurt."



- 13) "Unlike humans, I have different dresses and colors. You can tell if I'm a boy or a girl by my colour!"
- 14) "I don't eat small fish."
- 15) "Within two months, my little ducklings learn to fly and start their own journey."
- 16) "I really like bread, it's good for me."
- 17) "I don't like to eat insects and worms, just grass and seeds."
- 18) "It takes a month for ducklings to hatch from their eggs."
- 19) "Humans often feed us bread, but it isn't good for us."
- 20) "I have a colorful look, with my green head, white collar and chestnut-brown chest."
- 21) "I absolutely love to live in dry places."
- 22) "My kids can leave the nest just a few hours after hatching."
- 23) "I only have one color, I'm completely green."
- 24) "I enjoy a gourmet meal of insects, worms, grass, and even small fish. Yummy!"
- 25) "My babies can't leave my nest until they're a week old."
- 26) "My eggs take half a year to hatch."
- 27) "I don't need a fancy house, I can make my home anywhere where there's water and abundant food."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 28) After about two months, the mallard ducklings learn to fly.
- 29) The best thing about mallards is the sound they make.
- 30) Mallard ducklings can leave the nest just a few hours after they hatch.
- 31) It's amazing how mallards have a special gland that helps them repel water and keep their feathers dry.
- 32) Male Mallards have an iridescent green head, whereas the females are overall brown speckled.
- 33) Mallards are the best kind of ducks because they can live in a wide variety of habitats.
- 34) Mallards can fake injuries to trick predators and protect their nests.
- 35) The diet of a Mallard duck includes insects, grass, worms, and even small fish.
- 36) Mallards are more interesting than other ducks.
- 37) It's really cool that mallard ducklings learn to fly just two months after hatching.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) A baby mallard can leave the nest a few hours after hatching.
- 39) The female mallards have shiny green heads.
- 40) The female mallards are a speckled brown all over.
- 41) Mallard ducklings take a year to learn how to fly.
- 42) Only male mallards have shiny green heads.
- 43) People should feed mallards with bread.



- 66) It's amazing that female mallards have a more subdued color to blend with their surroundings!
- 67) The "quack" sound is specifically made by female mallards, isn't that fun!
- 68) Can you believe that mallards can live up to 20 years!



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| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
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| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> declarative </u> |
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| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> B </u> | |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> A </u> | |
| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> D </u> | |



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Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color is the bill of a mallard bird? (paragraph 1)
A. _____ B. Blue with white rings
C. _____ D. Yellowish-orange
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A. _____ B. A few hours after hatching
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12) "I lure predators away from my nest by pretending I'm hurt." (paragraph 4)