



# DUCKS

## KEY INFORMATION



Ducks are birds but are also called 'Waterfowl' because they are normally found in places like ponds, streams and rivers. Ducks are found everywhere in the world except Antarctica, where it is too cold for them. They usually travel to warmer areas so they can rest and raise their young. There are approximately 120 different species of ducks.

Ducks can live up to 20 years, depending on the species. Baby ducks are called ducklings and they hatch from eggs within 28 days. They can fly within 5-8 weeks. The mother duck will keep her ducklings together to protect them from predators, such as hawks, snakes, raccoons and large fish.

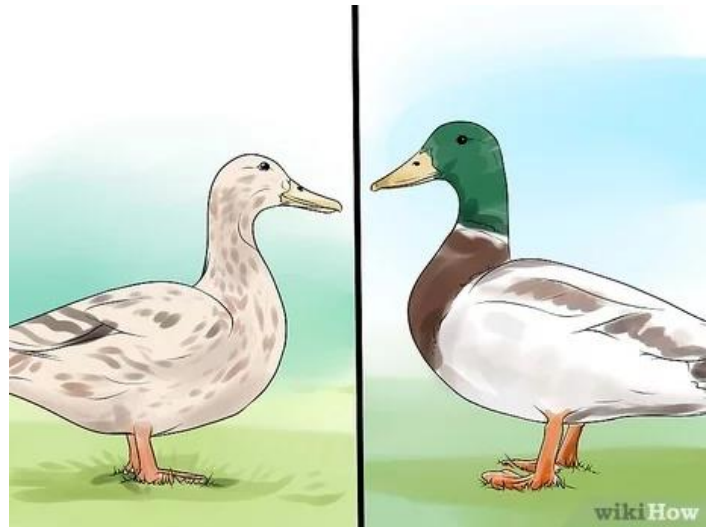
## APPEARANCE

Ducks have shorter necks and wings and have a stout body. Ducks have webbed feet, which are designed for swimming because they act like paddles.

Male ducks are called drakes and are usually identified by their brightly coloured feathers. Females are called hens and have duller feathers, which camouflages them from predators.

They have water-proof feathers that allow them to spend time in the water. To keep ducks warm, they have fluffy and soft feathers underneath the water-proof coat.

The duck's mouth is called a beak or bill. It is usually broad and flat and has a row of fine notches along the edge, which helps the duck to grip its food so it will not slip off.



## DIET

Ducks are omnivores. They have a natural diet of aquatic vegetation, such as pond weed, seeds, insects, worms and small water snails. If you wanted to go and feed ducks, you do not feed it bread because they will get full and will not eat the nutrients it is supposed to. Instead feed it sweetcorn, lettuce, peas, oats, seeds and rice.



## FUN FACTS

Ducks can turn off half their brain and sleep with one eye open when they sleep to watch for predators. Ducks have as many as 12,000 separate muscles to control their feathers. They can use these to lift their feathers to five underwater, show emotions or regulate body heat. Only some ducks can fly. Those that can fly can reach a speed of 50 miles per hour. The reason some ducks are unable to fly is because they are too heavy to get off the ground.

## Find Out More...

Insert link here

<https://kidskonnnect.com/animals/duck/>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/what-feed-ducks>

<https://animalcorner.org/animals/ducks/>

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## EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What are ducks also known as?
2. Where are ducks not found?
3. How many species of ducks are there?
4. What are baby ducks called?
5. Why do ducks have webbed feet?
6. What are you not meant to feed ducks?
- 7.