

Read the following text:

Israel's National Bird

Many countries have national birds. The national bird of Australia is the emu. That is a very big bird that doesn't fly. The United Kingdom's national bird is the robin. The beautiful flamingo is the national bird of the Bahamas. The people of Ukraine have the white stork as their national bird. And what about Israel? We have a bird that you all know. You see it in gardens and on trees. It doesn't look like other birds. It's very different from the sparrows and pigeons we see everywhere. This is the hoopoe, and it has been our national bird since 2008.

Although it's Israel's national bird, the hoopoe lives in other areas of the world. You can find it in Asia, Africa and Europe. Since the hoopoe finds its food on the ground, it likes to live in places where the grass is not too high. This is why you see it a lot in public gardens. The hoopoe mainly eats insects and seeds that it can find on the ground. It builds its nests inside holes it finds in trees and walls. It also likes nest boxes. Why not make one and hang it on a tree. There is a good chance that a hoopoe will come to live there.

It's easy to recognize a hoopoe. It has a crown of feathers on its head. It has a long beak. Its feathers are special too - they look like they have black and white stripes on them. The hoopoe looks like a sweet little bird, but it has a secret. The hoopoe's secret weapon is a very bad smell it makes when it feels danger. Cats and other enemies of the bird don't like this smell and this is how the hoopoe defends its nest.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

Write TRUE or FALSE next to each sentence:

1. The robin is the national bird of Ukraine - _____
2. Israel has a national bird - _____
3. There are hoopoes in Africa - _____
4. The hoopoe eats other birds - _____
5. Hoopoes can live inside nest boxes - _____
6. It's difficult to recognize a hoopoe - _____
7. The hoopoe's secret is its feathers - _____
8. Cats are the enemies of hoopoes - _____

Vocabulary

1. What are the singular forms of the following words?

birds, countries, trees, areas, insects, boxes, beaks, stripes, enemies

Answers:

bird, country, tree, area, insect, box, beak, stripe, enemy

2. What are the opposites of the following words?

A. Big

(1) Beautiful

(2) Small

B. Different

(1) The same

(2) Too late

C. Everywhere

(1) Nowhere

(2) Somewhere

D. High

(1) Inside

(2) Low

E. Special

(1) Regular

(2) Ugly

F. Enemy

(1) Bad

(2) Friend

Grammar

1. Fill in the correct form of the verb "to be":

(1) Emus _____ very big birds that don't fly.

A. am

B. is

C. are

(2) The hoopoe _____ Israel's national bird.

A. am

B. is

C. are

(3) The hoopoe's food _____ on the ground.

A. am

B. is

C. are

(4) There _____ hoopoe nests inside walls.

A. am

B. is

C. are

(5) It _____ easy to recognize a hoopoe.

A. am

B. is

C. are

(6) The hoopoe's feathers _____ very special.

A. am

B. is

C. are

2. Write a question about each sentence with the question word WHAT:

(1) The flamingo is the national bird of the Bahamas.

(2) We see the hoopoes in gardens and on trees.

(3) The hoopoe finds its food on the ground.

(4) The hoopoe mainly eats insects and seeds.

(5) Hoopoes like nest boxes.

(6) Hoopoes beaks are long.

(7) The hoopoe has a secret.