



Imagine a bird soaring high above the water, with a wingspan wider than you are tall. That's a pelican for you! These large and somewhat goofy-looking birds have a distinctive pouch under their beaks, which they use for catching food. Their feather colors can vary from white, brown, or gray, and they have short legs with webbed feet perfect for swimming. There are eight different species of pelicans, and they can be found all around the world.

Now, let's dive into the fascinating world of what pelicans eat and where they live. Pelicans are great fishermen and mostly eat fish, but they'll also snack on amphibians, crustaceans, and on rare occasions, smaller birds. They live in coastal areas, near lakes and rivers, and they are social creatures often seen in large flocks. Pelicans are well adapted to their aquatic homes with their long beaks and large throat pouches to scoop up their meals.

You must be curious about the life cycle of these large birds and their relationships with other animals and humans. Pelicans usually live up to 15 to 25 years, and they begin to breed when they are three or four years old. They are generally peaceful birds but can become aggressive if they feel their nests are threatened. Pelicans are generally unafraid of humans and have been known to snatch food from unsuspecting people!



Before we wrap up, let's look at some cool facts and defenses of these amazing birds. One of the most interesting things about pelicans is their large beak and throat pouch, which they use as a net to catch fish. They also have a hard layer of feathers that protect them from the sun and help them float in the water. So, next time you see a pelican, remember these fun facts about their lives and their important role in the ecosystem.

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

- 1) Where can pelicans be found?
 - A. Only in rainforests
 - B. Only in deserts
 - C. Only in polar regions
 - D. All around the world
- 2) What are some animals that pelicans eat?
 - A. Worms, snails, and plants
 - B. Lions, elephants, and giraffes
 - C. Mammals, reptiles, and insects
 - D. Amphibians, crustaceans, and smaller birds
- 3) How many species of pelicans are there?
 - A. Five.
 - B. Twenty.
 - C. Ten.
 - D. Eight.
- 4) How long do pelicans usually live?
 - A. 5 to 10 years.
 - B. 15 to 25 years.
 - C. 50 to 60 years.
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- 5) What colors can the feathers of a pelican be?
 - A. Purple, pink, or teal
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 - A. For storing water.
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 - C. For flying.
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 - A. Coastal areas, near lakes, and rivers
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 - C. Mountains and deserts
 - D. Above the tree line
- 9) What can pelicans snatch from unsuspecting humans?
 - A. Shiny objects
 - B. Money
 - C. Clothes
 - D. Food
- 10) From what age do pelicans start breeding?
 - A. When they are born
 - B. At one year old
 - C. At seven or eight years old
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- 11) Where is a pelican's pouch?
 - A. Under their beak
 - B. On their back
 - C. On their stomach
 - D. They do not have any pouch



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

- 12) "I only live in the United States."
- 13) "I only live around deserts."
- 14) "I am a great fisherman; fish is my favorite food."
- 15) "I'm the smallest bird in the world."
- 16) "I don't usually live long, maybe about 5 years."
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- 18) "My beak is not for show, it functions like a fishing net to scoop up my meals."
- 19) "You won't believe it, but I've been known to steal food from unsuspecting humans!"
- 20) "I'm not always the same color, I can be white, brown, or gray depending on my kind."
- 21) "My beak is too small to catch any meals."
- 22) "I prefer eating fruits and veggies."
- 23) "We pelicans are usually very aggressive."
- 24) "You'll usually find me near the sea, lakes, or rivers. I love the coastal areas!"
- 25) "I love a solitary life, away from other pelicans."
- 26) "My wing span can be between 6 and 12 feet tall!"
- 27) "We pelicans might seem calm, but if you venture near our nests, you might see our aggressive side."
- 28) "As a pelican, I live up to 25 years, much longer than some of the other birds!"
- 29) "I don't really like the water, I prefer to stay on land."
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Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 32) Pelicans can live up to 25 years.
- 33) The way pelicans catch fish with their big pouch is amazing.
- 34) There are eight different species of pelicans all around the world.
- 35) Pelicans are the coolest birds because they can fly, swim, and dive.
- 36) Pelicans can be white, brown, or gray in color.
- 37) It's amazing to see pelicans gliding above the water.
- 38) Pelicans may get aggressive if they feel their nests are in danger.
- 39) Pelicans have a large pouch under their beaks.
- 40) Pelicans' short legs and webbed feet make them look cute.
- 41) Pelicans look funny with their large beaks and wide wingspan.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 42) Pelicans can live for up to 25 years.
- 43) Pelicans only live 3 years.



- 65) Can you believe it, a pelican's beak can hold up to three gallons of water!
- 66) Pelican chicks are born without feathers and rely on their parents for food and protection.
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| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> true </u> | 55. <u> D </u> |
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| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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| 15. <u> false </u> | 40. <u> opinion </u> | 65. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> true </u> | |



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