



You know those vibrant, bright red birds that you see hopping around your backyard? Those are called Cardinal birds, and they're pretty amazing! Cardinals are easy to spot because of their brilliant red feathers and the cool black 'masks' they wear around their eyes. The females are not as bright but still very pretty with their warm brown feathers, and they also have that same cool mask. If you look closely, you will see that their beaks are a bright orange color, perfect for cracking open seeds and nuts.



Speaking of seeds and nuts, Cardinals love to eat them! They're not picky eaters at all and will also munch on fruits and insects, whatever they can find really. This is because they need lots of energy to fly around and take care of their families. And guess what? They love to drink sap from trees too, just like if they were drinking a sweet, sticky soda!

Now, let's fly into the world of Cardinal bird families. Cardinals mate for life, which means they stick with the same partner forever, isn't that sweet? The female lays 3-4 eggs at a time, and both parents take turns taking care of the eggs until they hatch. When the baby cardinals, or 'chicks', are born, they're so tiny and helpless, but don't worry, mom and dad are there to take care of them until they grow up and can fly on their own.

Just like us humans, Cardinals have to watch out for danger. They protect themselves by flying away quickly when they sense danger, using their sharp beaks if they need to, or blending into the red and brown colors of the trees. Cardinals are also very important to humans as they help control the number of harmful insects and they're also a joy to watch. So next time you see a Cardinal, remember how special they are and how they add beauty and help balance our world.



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

- 1) What color are Cardinal birds?
 - A. bright red
 - B. light yellow
 - C. bright blue
 - D. dark green

- 2) What is the female color of a Cardinal bird?
 - A. The female of a Cardinal bird is bright red.
 - B. The female of a Cardinal bird is dark blue.
 - C. The female of a Cardinal bird is warm brown.
 - D. The female of a Cardinal bird is light yellow.

- 3) Do Cardinals eat only seeds and nuts?
 - A. No, they also eat soil and tree bark
 - B. No, they also eat fruits and insects
 - C. No, they also eat leaves and grass
 - D. Yes, they only eat seeds and nuts

- 4) What do Cardinals love to eat?
 - A. Cardinals love to eat leaves and grass.
 - B. Cardinals love to eat seeds and nuts.
 - C. Cardinals love to eat fruits and berries.
 - D. Cardinals love to eat worms and bugs.

- 5) What are baby cardinals also known as?
 - A. hatchlings
 - B. cygnets
 - C. chicks
 - D. fledglings

- 6) What color is the beak of a Cardinal bird?
 - A. deep blue
 - B. light green
 - C. dark black
 - D. bright orange

- 7) What do Cardinals drink from trees?
 - A. nectar
 - B. leaf juice
 - C. sap
 - D. water

- 8) How many eggs does a female Cardinal lay at a time?
 - A. 7-8 eggs
 - B. 5-6 eggs
 - C. 3-4 eggs
 - D. 1-2 eggs

- 9) What colors do young Cardinals have?
 - A. Young Cardinals start out grayish-brown and eventually grow their red feathers.
 - B. Young Cardinals start out green and eventually grow their red feathers.
 - C. Young Cardinals start out yellow and eventually grow their red feathers.
 - D. Young Cardinals start out blue and eventually grow their red feathers.

- 10) Who takes care of the baby cardinals?
 - A. Both parents
 - B. Only the father
 - C. Only the mother
 - D. Other birds in the flock



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

- 11) "I prefer to be solitary."
- 12) "My female counterpart is as red as I am."
- 13) "If you look closely, you will see that we have a bright orange color beak."
- 14) "Just like you, cardinals need to watch out for danger. We use our sharp beaks to defend ourselves."
- 15) "Our females don't have a black feather masks, only the males do."
- 16) "I leave the care of eggs to my partner."
- 17) "Just like you are always with your family, cardinals also love to be in family groups and we generally mate for life."
- 18) "We hate seeds and nuts! We only love to eat leaves."
- 19) "You'd be surprised, but we lay a thousand tiny eggs!"
- 20) "In truth, we don't eat much. We get our energy from sunshine, not food!"
- 21) "Drinking sap from trees? Gross! We only drink fresh dew from leaves."
- 22) "You know, we cardinals can be seen so easily because of our bright red and the cool black 'masks' we wear around our eyes."
- 23) "We absolutely hate the taste of seeds, nuts, and fruits. Worms are our favorite!"
- 24) "Our bright orange beaks are not for cracking open seeds, but for writing messages in the dirt."
- 25) "When I was born, I looked really tiny and helpless, just like how human babies are."

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

- 26) Both the male and female Cardinals share the duty of taking care of their eggs and chicks.
- 27) The orange beak of a Cardinal bird is the best because it's the brightest among all birds.
- 28) Female Cardinals lay 3 to 4 eggs.
- 29) It is really amazing that both Cardinal parents help in taking care of the eggs.
- 30) Both male and female Cardinals have a black "mask" around their eyes.
- 31) Cardinals singing in the morning is one of the most beautiful sounds in the world.
- 32) Humans benefit from Cardinals because they help control the number of harmful insects.
- 33) Cardinals are able to eat a variety of foods including seeds, nuts, fruits, and insects.
- 34) Cardinals' bright red feathers make them the most beautiful birds.
- 35) The black "mask" around Cardinals' eyes make them look like little superheroes.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 36) Cardinals love to drink sap from trees.
- 37) The father Cardinal takes care of the eggs until they hatch.
- 38) Baby cardinals are born helpless and their parents take care of them until they can fly on their own.
- 39) Cardinal birds are easy to spot because of their dull black feathers.



- 40) Female cardinals have warm brown feathers instead of bright red feathers.
- 41) Cardinals avoid eating insects.
- 42) Male and female cardinals look alike.
- 43) Female cardinals lay dozens of eggs at a time.
- 44) Cardinals protect themselves by flying away quickly.
- 45) Cardinals have bright orange beaks.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 46) It's easy to hear cardinal birds because of their loud, clear whistles.
 - A. It has
 - B. It'll
 - C. It were
 - D. It is
- 47) Cardinal birds aren't found in Europe, they mainly live in North America.
 - A. arent
 - B. are'nt
 - C. are'nt
 - D. are not
- 48) Cardinal birds don't migrate, so you can see them all year round.
 - A. did not
 - B. does not
 - C. are not
 - D. do not
- 49) Cardinal birds aren't blue, they're red!
 - A. is not
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- 50) They've got bright red feathers which make them easy to spot.
 - A. They were
 - B. They are
 - C. They have
 - D. They'll
- 51) You'll often find them in backyards and parks.
 - A. You are
 - B. You'd
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 52) Cardinal birds eat seeds, fruit, and insects.
- 53) Why do male cardinal birds sing?
- 54) Cardinal birds are commonly found in North and South America.
- 55) Cardinals are bright red in color.
- 56) What do cardinal birds eat?
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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> A </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> | 51. <u> C </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> opinion </u> | 52. <u> declarative </u> |
| 3. <u> B </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 4. <u> B </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> | 54. <u> declarative </u> |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> declarative </u> |
| 6. <u> D </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | |
| 9. <u> A </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 10. <u> A </u> | 35. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> true </u> | |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> false </u> | |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> true </u> | |
| 14. <u> true </u> | 39. <u> false </u> | |
| 15. <u> false </u> | 40. <u> true </u> | |
| 16. <u> false </u> | 41. <u> false </u> | |
| 17. <u> true </u> | 42. <u> false </u> | |
| 18. <u> false </u> | 43. <u> false </u> | |
| 19. <u> false </u> | 44. <u> true </u> | |
| 20. <u> false </u> | 45. <u> true </u> | |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> D </u> | |
| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> D </u> | |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> D </u> | |
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11) "I prefer to be solitary." (paragraph 3)

12) "My female counterpart is as red as I am." (paragraph 1)