



Imagine a bird, tall and graceful, with a long neck and an even longer beak, that's what a crane looks like! These majestic birds can be as tall as 4 feet, and their wingspan can reach up to 6 feet across! While many types of cranes are a dull grey, some can be white, brown, and even gold. And don't forget about their red crown, it's a patch of skin on the top of their head that turns brighter when they're excited!

Speaking of excitement, can you guess what cranes love to eat? They're not picky eaters at all, they love to snack on insects, small mammals, and even fish if they can find them! Sometimes, they'll also eat grains and berries, especially when they're getting ready for their long migration trips. That's right, cranes are travelers who can travel thousands of miles to find the perfect spot to live.

Have you ever wondered where these traveling birds call home? Cranes live in all sorts of places, from the wetlands of Africa to the cold tundra of Siberia. They prefer to live near water and they build their nests in shallow water or on the ground near water. The mother crane usually lays two eggs and both the mother and father take turns sitting on the eggs until they hatch.



Cranes aren't just important to the ecosystem, they're important to us humans, too! In many cultures, cranes are symbols of luck, longevity, and peace. They're also helpful to farmers because they eat pests that can destroy crops. So next time you see a crane, remember how special and important they are to our world.





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How tall can cranes be?
A. As tall as 2 feet
B. As tall as 6 feet
C. As tall as 8 feet
D. As tall as 4 feet
- 2) How wide can a crane's wingspan be?
A. Up to 6 feet wide.
B. Up to 10 feet wide.
C. Up to 8 feet wide.
D. Up to 2 feet wide.
- 3) Where do cranes build their nests?
A. On cliffs
B. Underground
C. In shallow water or on the ground near water
D. In trees
- 4) Who takes turns sitting on the crane eggs until they hatch?
A. None, they leave the eggs alone
B. Both mother and father crane
C. Only the mother crane
D. Only the father crane
- 5) What types of environment do cranes prefer to live in?
A. Near water
B. In dry desert
C. On mountains
D. In dense forests
- 6) What do cranes eat when getting ready for migration?
A. Grains and berries
B. Insects and tree bark
C. Fish and aquatic plants
D. Rocks and small stones
- 7) How many eggs does the mother crane usually lay?
A. Two
B. One
C. Four
D. Three
- 8) What are cranes a symbol of in many cultures?
A. Love, beauty, and grace
B. Fear, danger, and chaos
C. War, strength, and power
D. Peace, luck, and longevity
- 9) What is the red crown of a crane?
A. Red dense fur on the top of a crane's head.
B. The crane's beak.
C. A colored feather on the crane's head.
D. A patch of skin on the top of the crane's head.
- 10) How are cranes helpful to farmers?
A. They water the crops
B. They eat pests that can destroy crops
C. They scare away other birds
D. They plant the seeds

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

- 11) "I'm a strict vegetarian, no insects or mammals for me."



- 12) "We cranes are travelers and can travel for thousands of miles in search of a good place to live."
- 13) "Some of us choose to build our nests in cactuses - you'd be amazed how comfortable they can be!"
- 14) "My nest is an architectural masterpiece, built high up in the treetops."
- 15) "When we start a family, we build our nests by shallow water or on the ground near water."
- 16) "I can lay up to nine eggs at one time, the more the merrier."
- 17) "Farmers like us because we eat pests that can destroy their crops."
- 18) "We eat insects, small mammals and even fish if we can find them."
- 19) "My feathers are mostly a vibrant blue."
- 20) "Most of us prefer living in areas that are arid and dry - like deserts."
- 21) "In many cultures, we are symbols of luck, longevity, and peace."

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

- 22) Cranes can migrate thousands of miles to find a suitable home.
- 23) It is interesting that both mom and dad cranes take turns sitting on the eggs.
- 24) Cranes usually build their nests near water and lay about two eggs at a time.
- 25) Cranes, with their long legs and necks, look like they are from a fantasy world.
- 26) Cranes can be 4 feet tall with a wingspan of 6 feet.
- 27) Cranes are more beautiful than any other bird.
- 28) Cranes are considered as symbols of luck, longevity, and peace in many cultures.
- 29) Cranes will eat insects, small mammals, fish, grains, and berries.
- 30) It is impressive how cranes can fly for such long distances during migration.
- 31) It is amazing how cranes build their nests in shallow water or on the ground near water.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 32) Cranes usually lay two eggs at a time.
- 33) Cranes do not migrate.
- 34) Crane's wingspan can reach up to 6 feet across.
- 35) Cranes always build their nests in trees.
- 36) Cranes prefer to build their nests in shallow water.
- 37) Cranes live only in North & South America.
- 38) Cranes are small birds with short wings.
- 39) Cranes only eat grains and berries.
- 40) Cranes' migration trips can span thousands of miles.
- 41) Cranes will sometimes eat small mammals.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).



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- 42) Cranes are important symbols in many cultures, representing longevity and good fortune.
 - 43) Do cranes have any predators?
 - 44) Cranes use their sharp beaks to catch fish and small animals.
 - 45) Cranes have long legs that help them wade in shallow water.
 - 46) Can cranes fly?
 - 47) What do cranes eat?



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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 32. _____ |
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| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |
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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>fact</u> |
| 2. <u>A</u> | 27. <u>opinion</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> |
| 4. <u>B</u> | 29. <u>fact</u> |
| 5. <u>A</u> | 30. <u>opinion</u> |
| 6. <u>A</u> | 31. <u>opinion</u> |
| 7. <u>A</u> | 32. <u>true</u> |
| 8. <u>D</u> | 33. <u>false</u> |
| 9. <u>D</u> | 34. <u>true</u> |
| 10. <u>B</u> | 35. <u>false</u> |
| 11. <u>false</u> | 36. <u>true</u> |
| 12. <u>true</u> | 37. <u>false</u> |
| 13. <u>false</u> | 38. <u>false</u> |
| 14. <u>false</u> | 39. <u>false</u> |
| 15. <u>true</u> | 40. <u>true</u> |
| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>true</u> |
| 17. <u>true</u> | 42. <u>declarative</u> |
| 18. <u>true</u> | 43. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>declarative</u> |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>declarative</u> |
| 21. <u>true</u> | 46. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 22. <u>fact</u> | 47. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 23. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 24. <u>fact</u> | |
| 25. <u>opinion</u> | |



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C. _____ D. As tall as 4 feet
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