

Imprinting

Imprinting in birds is a little like taking a picture with a camera. Birds that imprint seem to have a built-in “camera” in their heads. These baby birds “take a picture” of that big creature near them, and from then on they know it’s Mom.

If you get a chance to watch a hen with her chicks or a duck with her ducklings, notice the way the babies follow the mother. When she goes, they go, and when she stops, they stop. Imprinting helps these newborn babies with the hard job of survival. As long as they are near their mother, she will help them find food and protect them from danger.

But imprinting doesn’t always work the way you would expect. Sometimes the little bird’s “camera” takes the wrong picture, and then some funny things can happen.

If you take a duck’s egg and put it with a hen’s eggs, the baby duck won’t know it has the wrong mom. Out of the shell comes the little duckling, and it looks around. That big thing must be Mom. *Click*, the duckling has imprinted: Mom is a chicken.

The hen doesn’t look the way a duck’s mother ought to look, but that doesn’t matter. Even if you put the duckling back with its real duck mother, it won’t change its mind. The duck doesn’t match the “photo” of Mom in the duckling’s brain, so it runs back to the hen. The duckling has imprinted.

Some imprinting mistakes can be even stranger. Many years ago, in a zoo in Europe, a peacock hatched in winter was placed in the zoo’s warmest room. To the zookeepers’ great surprise, the peacock imprinted on the other creatures kept in the room; the peacock thought he was a tortoise!



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Strategy: Generating Main Idea Questions
Classifying Questions Chart

Student's Question:	Is this a main idea or a detail question?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea <input type="checkbox"/> Detail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea <input type="checkbox"/> Detail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea <input type="checkbox"/> Detail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea <input type="checkbox"/> Detail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea <input type="checkbox"/> Detail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea <input type="checkbox"/> Detail



DAR Levels 3-6

Strategy: Generating Main Idea Questions

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Passage Title: _____ Passage Level: _____

Use the Classifying Questions Chart to record the questions the student asks and whether the student thinks each question is a main idea or a detail question.

Did the student have difficulty generating questions? **Y** or **N**

Explain:

Did the student have difficulty distinguishing between main ideas and details? **Y** or **N**

Explain:

<p>During this activity, the student seemed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Actively engaged<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat engaged<input type="checkbox"/> Passively cooperative<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<p>Additional Comments:</p>
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