

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bird Brains at Work

By Anita N. Amin

Next time you see a pigeon flying across the sky, look at it carefully! Is it holding a can? Or a camera? Or wearing a backpack? If it's a carrier pigeon, it just might be a working bird.



Carrier pigeons are good messengers because they're fast and can fly long distances. They also have a good sense of direction. They can even reach places that people can't.



## Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

messages to people. The note is placed into a small skinny can. The can is tied to the pigeon's leg. Then the pigeon flies off to deliver the note.



This carrier pigeon has a small can attached to its leg, carrying a message.

in the ocean. Sometimes it is difficult for humans to spot people lost at sea, especially when the weather is bad. However, pigeons can fly quickly over a large area of water in search of people.

### Spy

Many years ago, carrier pigeons were used to help our country during wars. "Spy pigeons" had small cameras that were tied to them. As a pigeon flew over enemy land, the camera snapped photos of the land below. This would allow our military to see where the enemies were and what they were doing.

The pigeons have probably saved many soldiers' lives. These "spy" birds had a dangerous job. They had to dodge bullets, poisonous gas, and bullies like hawks.

During World Wars 1 and 2, the USA and its allies even had huge pigeon armies. Thousands of pigeons served! They were like flying soldiers. A few even received medals for their brave work.

### Scientist's Helper

In 2006, a group of scientists used pigeons to study air pollution in



Pigeons were often used in war, by wearing cameras to spy on enemies.

### Bird Brains at Work



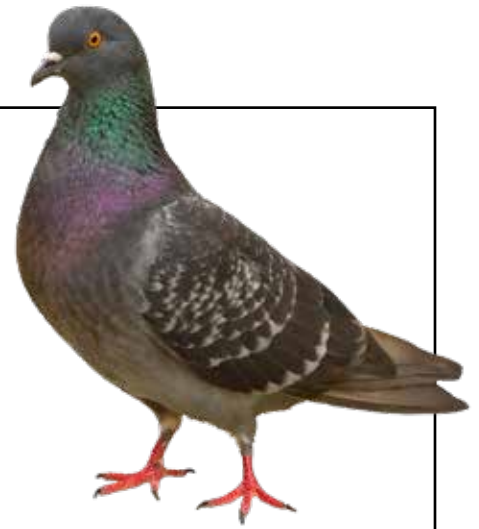
# Preview

Please log in to download  
the printable version of this worksheet.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bird Brains at Work

By Anita N. Amin



1. What did Genghis Kahn use pigeons for 800 years ago?
  - a. He used pigeons to deliver election results.
  - b. He used pigeons to find people lost at sea.
  - c. He used pigeons to carry messages.
  - d. He kept pigeons as pets.



## Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

---

---

---

---

4. Do you think our country's military still uses carrier pigeons? Why or why not?

---

---

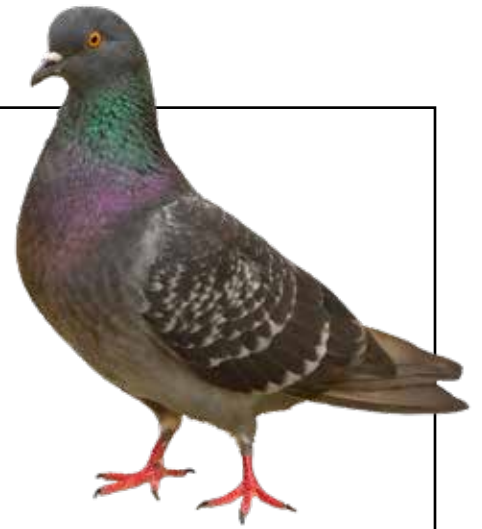
---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bird Brains at Work

By Anita N. Amin



Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ life jacket

a. person who rescues people who are in danger of drowning



## Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ poisonous

d. process in which citizens vote for a government official

5. \_\_\_\_\_ lifeguard

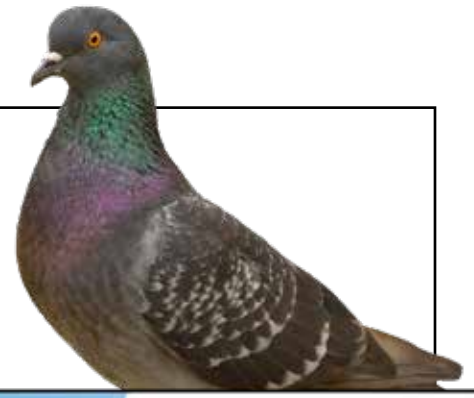
e. armed forces

6. \_\_\_\_\_ medals

f. machine for taking photos

7. \_\_\_\_\_ camera

g. something that causes illness or death



# Bird Brains at Work

# Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

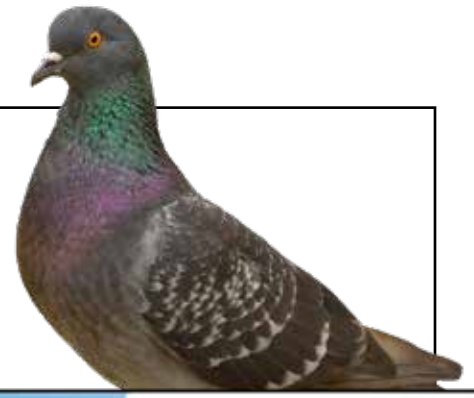


**have satellite technology and unmanned drone spy planes.**

---

---

---



# Bird Brains at Work

# Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.



6. c. medals

f. machine for taking photos

7. f. camera

g. something that causes illness or death