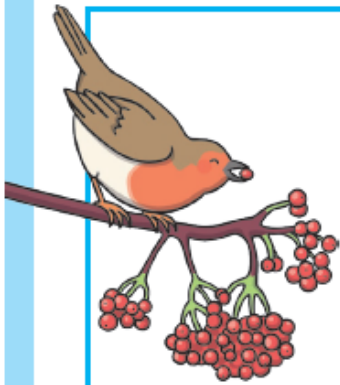


Birds in Your Garden

There are many different types of bird that you might see in your garden. Here are a few of them:

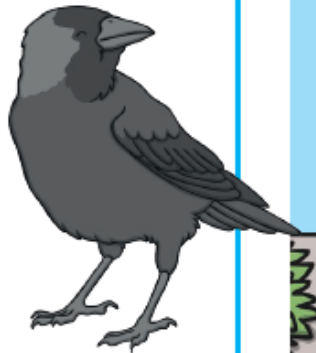


Robin

Robins are very noticeable in your garden. They have a red breast and a brown head and back. They have long legs and a short tail. They are very territorial. This means they live in one area and will defend it very aggressively if another robin tries to live there. They eat insects, fruit, seeds and worms.

Jackdaw

The jackdaw is a noisy bird. You would definitely notice this bird in your garden. They are quite large with grey at the back of their neck, a stubby beak and striking white eyes. They eat insects, dead animals, eggs, young birds and seeds. Jackdaws are known for stealing things; not just food but objects too!



Blue tit

The blue tit is a very small bird with bright yellow and blue feathers. They eat insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts. They lay eggs between the end of April and May. They often eat from bird tables and live in garden nesting boxes. The male and female blue tits look the same. In winter, family flocks join up with other blue tits as they search for food.



Birds in Your Garden

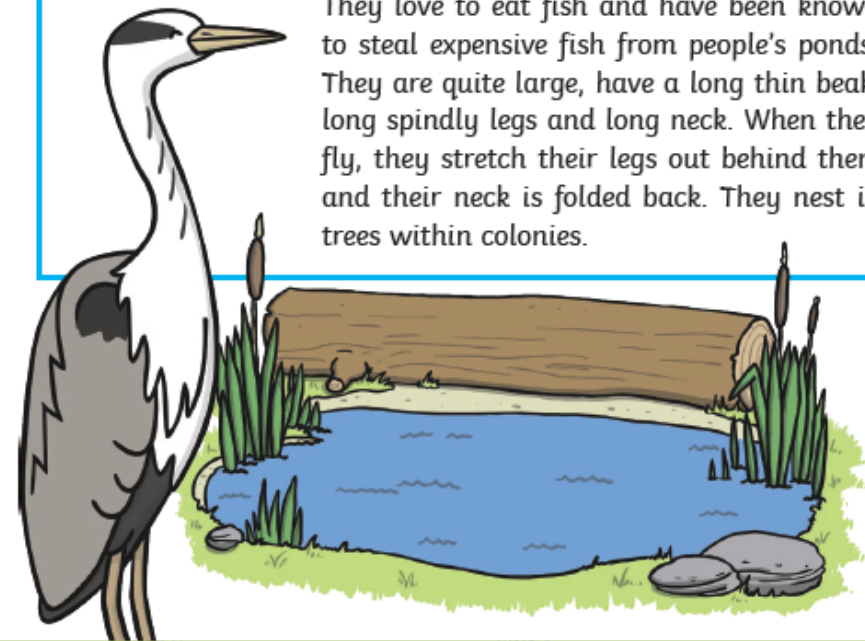
Blackbird

Blackbirds are very common garden birds but they also live in farmland, woodland and near streets and coasts. They eat insects, worms, seeds and fruit. Blackbirds tend to be solitary birds. This means they do not live in flocks, but instead they live on their own. The male is glossy black with an orange beak and an orange ring around its eye. The female is less attractive, being dark brown with a brown beak. They nest in trees and their birdsong is easily recognised.



Heron

If you or your neighbours have a pond in their garden, you might see a heron either standing next to the pond or flying nearby. They love to eat fish and have been known to steal expensive fish from people's ponds! They are quite large, have a long thin beak, long spindly legs and long neck. When they fly, they stretch their legs out behind them and their neck is folded back. They nest in trees within colonies.



Polar Animals

Polar Bears

Polar bears are huge mammals that can weigh up to 700kg when they are fully grown and are the largest carnivores (meat eaters) to live on land. Polar bears are born between November and January and then spend up to five months in their den before they see the outside world. The cubs then stay with their mother for up to two years after that, before going on to live and hunt alone.

Although polar bears have their cubs on land, they actually spend most of their lives around water and ice, hunting for food. They are strong swimmers and can swim for hours to get from one piece of ice to another. As the winter gets particularly cold, the sea freezes and they are able to hunt many miles out to sea by walking across the thick sea ice. Polar bears mainly prey on seals as seal fat provides them with lots of energy to help them keep warm.



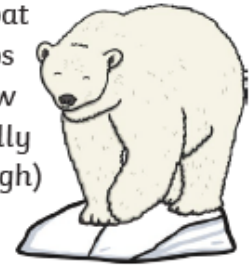
Wow!

They use their amazing sense of smell to find seals hidden under the snow. They can even smell an injured animal from up to one kilometre away. When polar bears get desperate for food, they will sometimes catch a whale or walrus.

Polar bears live in the Arctic, at the very top of our planet, where the temperature can reach as low as -50°C . Water and steam will freeze almost instantly in the Arctic in winter. Thankfully, polar bears are adapted for this environment in different ways. Firstly, they have a thick layer of fat which keeps heat trapped

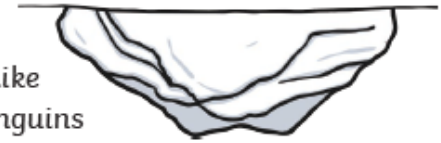
Polar Animals

inside their bodies. On top of that, their coat not only keeps them warm, but also helps them to blend in with the snow. Despite how it might look, a polar bear's fur isn't really white. It's actually transparent (see-through) but reflects light, making it look white.



Penguins

Penguins are birds that spend much of their lives in the water and unlike most other birds, they cannot fly. Penguins do have wings but they are more like flippers to help them swim. As they live in water, their bodies have adapted so that they can swim brilliantly to catch food. Their bodies are smooth and dart-shaped so they glide easily through the water. They have dark feathers with light patches which help them to blend in so they are difficult to spot. This is very useful way to trick predators and avoid being eaten!



Penguins don't have to swim in deep water as the fish they catch are found near to the surface. Their feathers make their bodies waterproof.

Penguins are found on every continent in the southern hemisphere (the bottom half of the world). Most people think that penguins only live in the ice and snow but there are some species that live in warmer climates. The hottest penguin habitat is the Galapagos Islands, where temperatures can reach as high as 32°C . Emperor and Adélie penguins live in Antarctica in temperatures as low as -60°C . Emperor penguins are the only animals to stay on the open ice during an Antarctic winter, huddling together to survive the worst weather conditions on earth.

