

Web Page Research Guide: Ostrich

(Answers, for Teacher Reference)

The Ostrich: A Close Reading for Research http://eled.org/ostrich	
Focus questions: What does your expert group animal look like? What is its habitat? What are its predators? How does it use its body and behaviors to help it survive?	
1. Use the arrows to scroll through the slideshow photographs at the top of the web page. Then use details from the photographs to answer the question on the right.	What details do you see in these photographs that might provide some clues about how the ostrich defends itself? <i>Responses may include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>running fast</i> • <i>living in groups</i> • <i>screaming</i> • <i>sharp claw on feet</i>
2. Scroll down and find the section titled "Ostrich description." Then use the questions to help you determine what this section is about.	What familiar word do you know that might help you figure out the meaning of the word <i>description</i> ? <i>describe</i> Quickly skim the information in this section. What do you think this section is about? <i>What my animal looks like, what colors and size it is</i>
3. Reread this section out loud. Then follow the directions on the right.	Find these sentences in the section: "The ostrich is also the only bird to have just <u>two toes</u> on each rather prehistoric-looking foot. <u>The inner toe</u> is thick and strong, adapted for running, and is armed with a <u>formidable, ten centimetre long claw</u> , which can be used in defence." Draw a picture of what this sentence describes below. Label the parts of the ostrich foot that are underlined in the sentence. <i>Students should have drawn a picture of an ostrich with two toes, including a thick and strong inner toe with a long claw.</i> According to the article, what does the ostrich do "at night when a predator is near"? <i>It makes a "booming call" that sounds like a lion's roar.</i>

<p>4. Scroll down and read the section titled “Ostrich biology.” Then use a dictionary to determine what the parts of the word <i>biology</i> mean.</p>	<p>What does the Greek root <i>ology</i> mean? <i>Life, living, living things</i></p> <p>What does the Greek root <i>bio</i> mean? <i>Study of, science of</i></p> <p>What do you think <i>biology</i> means? <i>The study or science of living things</i></p>
<p>5. Reread the first paragraph of this section out loud. Then answer the questions on the right, using details from the text.</p>	<p>What do you think <i>diet</i> means? What words in the text make you think so? <i>Diet is what an animal usually eats. I think this because the sentence on diet describes what my animal eats.</i></p> <p>What is in the ostrich’s diet? <i>Grasses, seeds, leaves, flowers, fruits, roots, insects</i></p> <p>The web page says, “Ostriches typically feed in groups, browsing close to the ground, although <i>S. c. molybdophanes</i> is said to be more solitary.” What do you think <i>solitary</i> means? What, in the text, makes you think so? <i>I think it means alone, because that would be the opposite of feeding in a group. The sentence uses the word “although” to show that solitary feeding is something different from feeding in a group.</i></p> <p>How does an ostrich protect itself?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Runs very fast (feet adapted for this, 70 kilometers per hour, strides 3–5 meters long)</i> • <i>Uses its sharp claws</i> • <i>Makes a loud booming call when a predator is near</i> • <i>Kicks</i>
<p>6. Talk with a partner about the question on the right.</p>	<p>According to the article, the ostrich “is also able to outpace most mammals in terms of stamina, capable of running at up to 50 kilometres per hour for 30 minutes or more.” How might this be helpful to the ostrich?</p> <p><i>Their predators are mammals, so this means they can run longer and faster than most of their predators.</i></p>

<p>7. Scroll down and read the section titled “Ostrich habitat” aloud. Then use details from the text to answer the question on the right.</p>	<p>Based on the information in the paragraph, what do you think the word <i>habitat</i> means?</p> <p><i>What the environment looks like where my animal lives</i></p> <p>What, in the text, makes you think so?</p> <p><i>This section describes the places where you might find my animal.</i></p>
<p>8. Now scroll back up to the photographs at the top of the web page. Use details from the photographs, as well as what you have read, to answer the question on the right.</p>	<p>Describe the ostrich’s habitat. Use information from both the words and pictures.</p> <p><i>Responses may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>open semi-arid plains</i> • <i>desert to savanna</i> • <i>open woodland</i>
<p>9. Read the section titled “Ostrich threats.” Then answer the question on the right.</p>	<p>What is the main idea of this section?</p> <p><i>The ostrich isn’t threatened, but its numbers are decreasing because people use its eggs, feathers, and meat and destroy its habitat.</i></p>
<p>10. Use any part of the website or search a different website to answer the question on the right.</p>	<p>What are your animal’s predators?</p> <p><i>Lion, coyote</i></p>
<p>11. Optional CHALLENGE question</p>	<p>What threats does the ostrich face from humans?</p> <p><i>People use its eggs, meat, and skin. Our farm animals graze the land and destroy the ostrich’s natural habitat.</i></p>

Pulling it all together ...	
12. Using evidence from the text, sketch what the ostrich does when a predator is near. Be sure to show the animal’s habitat in the background of your picture. Add a caption under your illustration to help the reader understand what you drew.	<i>Students should have drawn a picture of an ostrich in a group running, kicking, or using its sharp claws. It should be in open, semi-arid plains, desert to savanna, or open woodland.</i>