

Stork

These tall, white wading birds can be found mainly in North America. They are strange looking creatures with featherless heads, long legs, pink feet, and long bills. Their bills can measure up to 25 cm in length! Wood storks have a very effective fishing technique. They wade through shallow water when hunting for fish. They open their large bills and stick them in the water. They then wait patiently for a fish to swim by and then snap!



Quick facts

Diet: Carnivore

Life span: 10 - 18 years

Wingspan: 1.5 - 1.8 m

Group name: Colony or flock

Storks can close their bills shut in under 25 milliseconds. This reaction time can not be beaten by many other animals.

Wood storks feed on fish, frogs, and large insects. They build their stick nests in trees, sometimes there can be over 20 nests in one tree. Female wood storks lay between 3 - 5 eggs in a clutch. Both parents take it in turns to incubate the eggs which takes about 30 days. When chicks are born they weigh about 60 g and are completely helpless. Chicks are fed a lot of food each day and by the time they are 1 month old they are 25 times heavier than they were when they hatched.

Parents are very protective over their eggs and will fight off predators such as raccoons, vultures, grackles, and skunks.

Wood storks live in freshwater or brackish wetlands and swamps.

Name: _____

Subject: Themes

Date: _____

Sheet: Stork

Read the information sheet about Wood Storks on the previous page and then answer the questions.

a) What is the name for a group of storks? _____

b) Are birds warm-blooded or cold-blooded? _____

c) Do Wood Storks have feathers on their head? Yes / No

d) Underline the correct answer. How long does it take for a stork to snap its bill shut?

1. 25 seconds

2. 25 milliseconds

3. 10 milliseconds

4. 8 milliseconds

e) How many eggs does a female Wood Stork usually lay? _____

f) How long are the eggs incubated for? _____

g) How much does a chick weigh when it is born? _____

h) If a chick weighs 50 g when it is born, how much will it weigh at one month old?

_____ g

i) Can you think of another wading bird?

j) What do Wood Storks like to eat?
