

Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpeckers can be found in most of North America and are the largest of the common woodpeckers. They are easily spotted with their zebra-stripe heads and neck and their red crest. They use their long bills to forage for food. Their favourite meal is carpenter ants and they find them by digging large holes in the trees. Sometimes the holes are so large that the actual tree breaks in half! They use their tongues to lap up any insects or beetle larvae that they find.



Quick facts

Type: Bird

Wingspan: 66 to 75 cm

Diet: Omnivore

Weight: 250 to 350 g

Adult Pileated Woodpeckers are about 50 cm long. Males have a red line from the bill to the throat, females have a black line.

Pileated Woodpeckers eat mainly insects but also eat fruit, nuts, and berries. They make their nests in the holes of dead trees where they raise their young every year. Once the young have left the nest, the nest is abandoned and is used by other animals such as songbirds, owls, tree-nesting ducks, and even raccoons.

Female Pileated Woodpeckers have an average clutch size of 4 eggs. The male and female both incubate the eggs for about 15 days. Predators of these eggs can include weasels, squirrels, rat snakes, and gray foxes. Predators of adult Pileated Woodpeckers include red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, and barred owls.

When woodpeckers are making holes in the trees, it sounds like a loud hammering and it can be heard from a great distance.

Name: _____

Subject: Themes - Birds

Date: _____

Sheet: Woodpecker

Read the information sheet about Pileated Woodpeckers on the previous page and then answer the questions.

a) Write down three characteristics of birds?

b) What is a Pileated Woodpecker's favourite meal? _____

c) What is the wingspan of a Pileated Woodpecker? _____

d) Underline the correct word in brackets:

Male Pileated Woodpeckers have a (white/ black/ brown/ red) line from the bill to the throat.

e) Put a circle around the correct answer: The average clutch size of a Pileated Woodpecker is...

1. 5**2.** 4**3.** 3**4.** 6

f) When the woodpeckers leave their nest, which other animals might use the hole?

g) Write down three predators of adult Pileated Woodpeckers?

h) Unscramble this word? v o m i n e r o _ _ _ _ _

i) How long do the male and female incubate their eggs? _____

j) There are many different species of woodpecker. Can you find the names of two more?
