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Level 1

The shape of eggs helps birds fly well

25th June, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-1.html>

Scientists know why birds' eggs are different shapes - round, potato-shaped and pointy. People once believed rounder eggs contained male chicks, but that was wrong. A new study says that the shape makes the bird fly better. A professor said birds have changed to lay eggs that have different shapes. They are all different in shape - everything from a round owl's egg to a pointy sandpiper egg.

The scientists put information about 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species into a computer. They looked at the shape, length and height of the eggs. They also looked at how oval the eggs were. Birds with the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. The team was shocked to find that egg shape affected how well birds fly. Hummingbirds have the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls have the roundest eggs; and sea birds have the pointiest eggs.

Sources: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/bird-eggs-shapes-flight-evolution/>
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/23/c_136387440.htm
<http://www.popsci.com/bird-flight-egg-shape#page-2>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Scientists know | a. wrong |
| 2. birds' eggs are different | b. chicks |
| 3. potato- | c. eggs |
| 4. male | d. shapes |
| 5. that was | e. fly better |
| 6. the shape makes the bird | f. why |
| 7. lay | g. owl's egg |
| 8. a round | h. shaped |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. information about | a. of the eggs |
| 2. 1,400 different bird | b. computer |
| 3. into a | c. shaped eggs |
| 4. the shape, length and height | d. species |
| 5. They also looked at how oval | e. birds |
| 6. how well birds | f. 50,000 eggs |
| 7. the most-oval- | g. the eggs were |
| 8. sea | h. fly |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-1.html>

Scientists know why birds' eggs are (1) _____ - round, potato-shaped and pointy. People (2) _____ rounder eggs contained male chicks, but that was wrong. A new (3) _____ that the shape makes the bird (4) _____. A professor said birds have changed (5) _____ that have different shapes. They are all different in shape - everything (6) _____ owl's egg to a pointy sandpiper egg.

The scientists (7) _____ about 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird (8) _____ a computer. They looked at the shape, length and height of the eggs. They also looked (9) _____ the eggs were. Birds with the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. The team was (10) _____ that egg shape affected how well birds fly. Hummingbirds (11) _____-oval-shaped eggs; owls have the roundest eggs; (12) _____ have the pointiest eggs.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-1.html>

Scientists know why birds' eggs are different shapes - round, potato-shaped and pointy. People once believed rounder eggs contained male chicks, but that was wrong. A new study says that the shape makes the bird fly better. A professor said birds have changed to lay eggs that have different shapes. They are all different in shape - everything from a round owl's egg to a pointy sandpiper egg. The scientists put information about 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species into a computer. They looked at the shape, length and height of the eggs. They also looked at how oval the eggs were. Birds with the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. The team was shocked to find that egg shape affected how well birds fly. Hummingbird have the most-oval-shaped eggs; owl have the roundest eggs; and seabird have the pointiest eggs.

EGGS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about eggs in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-1.html>

Write about **eggs** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
