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Level 2

The shape of eggs helps birds fly well

25th June, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-2.html>

Scientists think they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some are round, some are potato-shaped, and others are pointy. Two thousand years ago, Aristotle said flatter eggs had female chicks inside and rounder eggs contained male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study says that the shape of the egg depends on how well the female bird flies. A professor said she noticed that birds have evolved to lay eggs that have different shapes. They are all different in form, "everything from a spherical owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg".

The professor and her team made a formula for the shape of different eggs. They looked at 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. They put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer. They also looked at how oval the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds with the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. The professor said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape [difference] was flight ability." Hummingbirds laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and sea birds laid 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Scientists think they | a. chicks |
| 2. birds' eggs are different | b. male chicks |
| 3. flatter eggs had female | c. shapes |
| 4. rounder eggs contained | d. evolved |
| 5. how well the female | e. know why |
| 6. birds have | f. egg |
| 7. lay | g. bird flies |
| 8. a spherical owl | h. eggs |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The professor and | a. species |
| 2. They looked | b. the roundest eggs |
| 3. 1,400 different bird | c. oval the eggs were |
| 4. the shape, length and height | d. birds |
| 5. They also looked at how | e. explanations |
| 6. one of the best | f. her team |
| 7. owls laid | g. at 50,000 eggs |
| 8. sea | h. of the eggs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-2.html>

Scientists think (1) _____ birds' eggs are different shapes. Some are round, some are potato-shaped, and others are pointy. Two thousand years ago, Aristotle said (2) _____ female chicks inside and rounder eggs contained male chicks. But (3) _____. A new study says that the shape of the egg (4) _____ well the female bird flies. A professor said she noticed that birds have (5) _____ eggs that have different shapes. They are all (6) _____, "everything from a spherical owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg".

The professor and (7) _____ a formula for the shape of different eggs. They looked at 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different (8) _____. They put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer. They also looked (9) _____ the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds with the most-oval-shaped eggs were (10) _____. The professor said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape [difference] was (11) _____." Hummingbirds laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and (12) _____ the pointiest eggs.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170625-eggs-2.html>

Scientists think they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some are round, some are potato-shaped, and others are pointy. Two thousand years ago, Aristotle said that round eggs had female chicks inside and round eggs contained male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study says that the shape of the egg depends on how well the female bird flies. A professor said she noticed that birds have evolved to lay eggs that have different shapes. They are all different in form, "everything from a spherical egg to a pointy sand-piper egg". The professor and her team made a formula for the shape of different eggs. They looked at 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. They put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer. They also looked at how oval the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds with the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. The professor said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape [difference] was flight ability." Hummingbirds laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and seabirds laid 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-2.html>

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