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## **Level 3**

### **The shape of eggs helps birds fly well**

**25th June, 2017**

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

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Scientists believe they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some eggs are quite round; some are kind of potato-shaped; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle said flatter eggs had female chicks inside them and rounder eggs contained male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA suggests that the shape of the egg depends on how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It has not gone unnoticed that birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite diverse in form - everything from a spherical owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg."

Professor Stoddard and her colleagues created a mathematical formula to map the shape of different eggs. They looked at almost 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. The researchers put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked at how oval the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. Professor Stoddard said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape variation was flight ability." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers 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://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/23/c_136387440.htm)  
<http://www.popsci.com/bird-flight-egg-shape#page-2>

# WARM-UPS

**1. BIRDS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about birds. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

scientists / birds / eggs / potato / female / chicks / university / flies / diverse / owl / colleagues / formula / species / computer / database / shocked / ability / oval

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. EGGS:** Students A **strongly** believe eggs are the most important food; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. DIFFERENT:** Why are these things in animals different? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What are the differences?	Why?
Eggs		
Feathers		
Eyes		
Fur		
Teeth		
Calls		

**5. SHAPE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "shape". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. COOKING:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of eating eggs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- raw
- fried
- scrambled
- hard-boiled
- omelet
- poached
- baked
- soft-boiled

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Scientists are not sure why bird eggs have different shapes. **T / F**
- b. Aristotle said flatter eggs contained female chicks. **T / F**
- c. The shape of an egg affects how well a bird flies. **T / F**
- d. Owl eggs are spherical. **T / F**
- e. Researchers looked at nearly 50,000 eggs. **T / F**
- f. The researchers looked at 14,000 bird species. **T / F**
- g. The researchers were not shocked at what they found. **T / F**
- h. Eagles laid the pointiest eggs. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>believe</b>    | a. held       |
| 2. <b>quite</b>      | b. co-workers |
| 3. <b>contained</b>  | c. chart      |
| 4. <b>fast</b>       | d. fairly     |
| 5. <b>evolved</b>    | e. skill      |
| 6. <b>colleagues</b> | f. developed  |
| 7. <b>map</b>        | g. think      |
| 8. <b>shocked</b>    | h. circular   |
| 9. <b>ability</b>    | i. quickly    |
| 10. <b>round</b>     | j. amazed     |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Scientists believe they know          | a. bird species      |
| 2. some are kind of potato-              | b. bird flies        |
| 3. rounder eggs contained male           | c. were              |
| 4. how fast the female                   | d. formula           |
| 5. shapes that are quite diverse         | e. chicks            |
| 6. created a mathematical                | f. ability           |
| 7. 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different      | g. shaped            |
| 8. They also looked at how oval the eggs | h. in form           |
| 9. flight                                | i. the roundest eggs |
| 10. owls laid                            | j. why               |

# GAP FILL

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

Scientists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some eggs are quite (2) \_\_\_\_\_; some are kind of potato-shaped; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years ago, the Greek (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Aristotle said flatter eggs had female chicks inside them and rounder eggs (4) \_\_\_\_\_ male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA suggests that the shape of the egg (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It has not gone unnoticed that birds have (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite diverse in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ - everything from a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg."

*contained*  
*evolved*  
*believe*  
*form*  
*philosopher*  
*spherical*  
*round*  
*depends*

Professor Stoddard and her (9) \_\_\_\_\_ created a mathematical (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to map the shape of different eggs. They looked at almost 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. The researchers put the shape, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and height of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked at how (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ fliers. Professor Stoddard said: "We were (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape variation was flight (15) \_\_\_\_\_." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and sea birds (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the pointiest eggs.

*formula*  
*shocked*  
*oval*  
*laid*  
*colleagues*  
*ability*  
*best*  
*length*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Scientists believe they know why birds' eggs are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. differently shapes
  - b. different shaped
  - c. difference shapes
  - d. different shapes
- 2) Some eggs are quite round; some are kind \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. off potato-shape
  - b. of potatoes shaped
  - c. off potatoes shape
  - d. of potato-shaped
- 3) flatter eggs had female chicks inside them and rounder eggs \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. contain male chicks
  - b. contains male chicks
  - c. contained male chicks
  - d. containing male chicks
- 4) the shape of the egg depends on how well and how fast the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. female bird flies
  - b. female birds flies
  - c. female birds fly
  - d. female birds fly
- 5) birds have evolved to lay eggs with shapes that are quite \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. diverse on form
  - b. diverse in form
  - c. diverse in farm
  - d. diverse in firm
- 6) Professor Stoddard and her colleagues created a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. mathematical formula
  - b. mathematical formulae
  - c. mathematically formula
  - d. mathematical form mule
- 7) They looked at almost 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. birds species
  - b. birds' species
  - c. bird's species
  - d. bird species
- 8) The researchers put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. computer databases
  - b. computer database
  - c. computers database
  - d. computers databases
- 9) one of the best explanations for egg shape variation \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. was flight ability
  - b. was flight abilities
  - c. was flights ability
  - d. were flight ability
- 10) owls laid the roundest eggs; and sea birds laid \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the point east egg
  - b. the paint east eggs
  - c. the pointiest egg
  - d. the pointiest eggs

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Scientists believe (1) \_\_\_\_\_ birds' eggs are different shapes. Some eggs are quite round; some (2) \_\_\_\_\_ potato-shaped; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle said (3) \_\_\_\_\_ female chicks inside them and rounder eggs contained male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA suggests (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the egg depends on how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It (5) \_\_\_\_\_ unnoticed that birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite (6) \_\_\_\_\_ form - everything from a spherical owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg."

Professor Stoddard and her colleagues created (7) \_\_\_\_\_ formula to map the shape of different eggs. They looked at almost 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The researchers put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Professor Stoddard said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape variation was (11) \_\_\_\_\_." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and sea (12) \_\_\_\_\_ pointiest eggs.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What vegetable did the article say some eggs are shaped like?
2. Which philosopher was mentioned?
3. Which university is the research from?
4. What is Mary Stoddard's job?
5. Which bird did the article say was spherical?
6. What kind of formula did the researchers make?
7. How many eggs did the researchers look at?
8. Which shape eggs did the best fliers come from?
9. How did the researchers feel about the findings of the research?
10. Which birds lay the pointiest eggs?



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What vegetable did the article say some eggs are shaped like?
  - a) cucumbers
  - b) carrots
  - c) potatoes
  - d) onions
- 2) Which philosopher was mentioned?
  - a) Aristotle
  - b) Plato
  - c) Confucius
  - d) Nietzsche
- 3) Which university is the research from?
  - a) Sorbonne
  - b) Princeton
  - c) Oxford
  - d) Tokyo
- 4) What is Mary Stoddard's job?
  - a) philosopher
  - b) egg farmer
  - c) bird watcher
  - d) professor
- 5) Which bird's egg did the article say was spherical?
  - a) eagle
  - b) emu
  - c) owl
  - d) crow
- 6) What kind of formula did the researchers make?
  - a) physics
  - b) mathematical
  - c) chemical
  - d) engineering
- 7) How many eggs did the researchers look at?
  - a) about 50,000
  - b) exactly 50,000
  - c) over 50,000
  - d) almost 50,000
- 8) Which shape eggs did the best fliers come from?
  - a) circular
  - b) oval
  - c) potato-shaped
  - d) pointy
- 9) How did the researchers feel about the findings of the research?
  - a) excited
  - b) shocked
  - c) angry
  - d) bored
- 10) Which birds lay the pointiest eggs?
  - a) sea birds
  - b) birds of prey
  - c) woodland birds
  - d) birds of paradise

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Raw**

You think the best way to eat eggs is raw. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): fried, boiled or an omelet.

## **Role B – Fried**

You think the best way to eat eggs is fried. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): raw, boiled or an omelet.

## **Role C – Boiled**

You think the best way to eat eggs is boiled. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): fried, raw or an omelet.

## **Role D – Omelet**

You think the best way to eat eggs is making an omelet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): fried, boiled or raw.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'bird' and 'egg'.

<b>bird</b>	<b>egg</b>
-------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• believe</li><li>• two</li><li>• wrong</li><li>• depends</li><li>• gone</li><li>• diverse</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• map</li><li>• 50,000</li><li>• height</li><li>• also</li><li>• ability</li><li>• sea</li></ul>
--	--

# EGGS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1706/170625-eggs.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.

## EGGS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'bird'?
3. What do you know about bird eggs?
4. How often do you eat eggs?
5. Why are eggs different colours?
6. What are the tastiest eggs?
7. What do you think of eating raw eggs?
8. What's your favorite way of cooking eggs?
9. Are there any interesting customs in your country using eggs?
10. Do you think eggs are good value for money?

*The shape of eggs helps birds fly well – 25th June, 2017*  
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## EGGS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'egg'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Have you had eggs from birds other than chickens?
15. Do you prefer the egg white or the yolk?
16. Do you usually buy free range eggs or those from battery chickens?
17. What have you eaten in the past few days that contained eggs?
18. Do you prefer soft- or hard-boiled eggs?
19. What would your life be like without eggs?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Scientists believe they know why birds' eggs are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ shapes. Some eggs are quite round; some are kind of potato-(2) \_\_\_\_\_; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle said flatter eggs had female (3) \_\_\_\_\_ inside them and rounder eggs contained male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA suggests that the shape of the egg depends (4) \_\_\_\_\_ how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It has not (5) \_\_\_\_\_ unnoticed that birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite diverse in form - everything from a spherical owl egg (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a pointy sandpiper egg."

Professor Stoddard and her colleagues created a mathematical formula to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the shape of different eggs. They looked at (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. The researchers put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked at (9) \_\_\_\_\_ oval the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Professor Stoddard said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape variation was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ability." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ birds laid the pointiest eggs.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                  |                 |                   |
|-----|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) different | (b) differential | (c) differences | (d) differentiate |
| 2.  | (a) shaping   | (b) shapes       | (c) shaped      | (d) shape         |
| 3.  | (a) checks    | (b) chucks       | (c) chicks      | (d) chocks        |
| 4.  | (a) of        | (b) at           | (c) in          | (d) on            |
| 5.  | (a) went      | (b) gone         | (c) going       | (d) go            |
| 6.  | (a) of        | (b) to           | (c) at          | (d) in            |
| 7.  | (a) mapping   | (b) mapped       | (c) maps        | (d) map           |
| 8.  | (a) must      | (b) almost       | (c) most        | (d) mostly        |
| 9.  | (a) why       | (b) what         | (c) how         | (d) which         |
| 10. | (a) fillers   | (b) files        | (c) filers      | (d) fliers        |
| 11. | (a) flying    | (b) flies        | (c) fliers      | (d) flight        |
| 12. | (a) seen      | (b) sea          | (c) seeing      | (d) scene         |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. Scientists bilveee they know
2. the Greek rhlohepipos Aristotle
3. rounder eggs contained male hisckc
4. esneddp on how well
5. shapes that are quite rveseid
6. a hriceaspl owl egg

## Paragraph 2

7. Professor Stoddard and her lecsolaeug
8. a mathematical mrolfua
9. 1,400 different bird siepces
10. thiegh of the eggs
11. fhtlig ability
12. The aserrserhec found that



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) height of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked at how oval the eggs
- ( ) shape variation was flight ability." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers
- ( ) chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA suggests that the shape of the egg depends
- ( ) laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and sea birds laid the pointiest eggs.
- ( ) eggs. They looked at almost 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. The researchers put the shape, length and
- ( ) Professor Stoddard and her colleagues created a mathematical formula to map the shape of different
- ( ) fliers. Professor Stoddard said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg
- ( **1** ) Scientists believe they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some eggs are quite round; some are kind
- ( ) of potato-shaped; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years ago, the Greek
- ( ) were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best
- ( ) gone unnoticed that birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite diverse in
- ( ) form - everything from a spherical owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg."
- ( ) on how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It has not
- ( ) philosopher Aristotle said flatter eggs had female chicks inside them and rounder eggs contained male

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. eggs they are know different why Scientists birds' believe .
2. flatter inside eggs them had Aristotle female said chicks .
3. female and bird how flies fast How the well .
4. have gone evolved unnoticed It that has birds not .
5. with eggs Lay form in diverse quite are that shapes .
6. map of A to shape eggs formula the different mathematical .
7. eggs at were how They oval also the looked .
8. that the shaped laid best eggs oval- the Birds were most- .
9. for of egg the shape best variation explanations One .
10. most eggs - Sandpipers oval laid - the shaped .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Scientists *believe* / *belief* they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some eggs are *quiet* / *quite* round; some are kind of potato-shaped; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years *age* / *ago*, the Greek philosopher Aristotle said flatter eggs had female chicks *inside* / *insider* them and rounder eggs *contents* / *contained* male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA *suggestion* / *suggests* that the shape of the egg depends *in* / *on* how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It has not gone unnoticed *that* / *what* birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite diverse *in* / *on* form - everything from a spherical owl egg *of* / *to* a pointy sandpiper egg."

Professor Stoddard and her *colleagues* / *colleges* created a mathematical formula to map the shape *of* / *off* different eggs. They looked at *most* / *almost* 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. The researchers put the shape, length and *height* / *high* of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked at how oval the *eggs* / *egg* were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best *fillers* / *fliers*. Professor Stoddard said: "We were *shocked* / *shocking* to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape *vary* / *variation* was flight *ability* / *able*." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and *see* / *sea* birds laid the pointiest eggs.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Sc\_\_nt\_\_sts b\_\_l\_\_v\_\_ th\_\_y kn\_\_w why b\_\_rds' \_\_ggs \_\_r\_\_  
d\_\_ff\_\_r\_\_nt sh\_\_p\_\_s. S\_\_m\_\_ \_\_ggs \_\_r\_\_ q\_\_t\_\_ r\_\_nd; s\_\_m\_\_  
\_\_r\_\_ k\_\_nd \_\_f\_\_ p\_\_t\_\_t\_\_-sh\_\_p\_\_d; \_\_nd th\_\_rs \_\_r\_\_ l\_\_ng\_\_r\_\_nd  
p\_\_nty. Tw\_\_ th\_\_s\_\_nd y\_\_rs \_\_g\_\_, th\_\_ Gr\_\_k  
ph\_\_l\_\_s\_\_ph\_\_r\_\_ \_\_r\_\_st\_\_tl\_\_ s\_\_d fl\_\_tt\_\_r\_\_ \_\_ggs h\_\_d \_\_f\_\_m\_\_l\_\_  
ch\_\_cks \_\_ns\_\_d\_\_ th\_\_m \_\_nd r\_\_nd\_\_r\_\_ \_\_ggs c\_\_nt\_\_n\_\_d m\_\_l\_\_  
ch\_\_cks. B\_\_t h\_\_w\_\_s wr\_\_ng. \_\_n\_\_w st\_\_dy fr\_\_m Pr\_\_nc\_\_t\_\_n  
\_\_n\_\_v\_\_rs\_\_ty \_\_n th\_\_ \_\_S\_\_ s\_\_gg\_\_sts th\_\_t th\_\_ sh\_\_p\_\_ \_\_f\_\_ th\_\_  
\_\_gg\_\_d\_\_p\_\_nds \_\_n h\_\_w w\_\_ll \_\_nd h\_\_w f\_\_st th\_\_ f\_\_m\_\_l\_\_ b\_\_rd  
fl\_\_s. Pr\_\_f\_\_ss\_\_r M\_\_ry St\_\_dd\_\_rd s\_\_d: "t\_\_h\_\_s\_\_n\_\_t\_\_g\_\_n\_\_  
\_\_nn\_\_t\_\_c\_\_d th\_\_t b\_\_rds h\_\_v\_\_ \_\_v\_\_lv\_\_d\_\_t\_\_ [l\_\_y\_\_ggs w\_\_th]  
sh\_\_p\_\_s th\_\_t \_\_r\_\_ q\_\_t\_\_d\_\_v\_\_rs\_\_ \_\_n f\_\_rm - \_\_v\_\_ryth\_\_ng  
fr\_\_m \_\_sph\_\_r\_\_c\_\_l\_\_wl\_\_gg\_\_t\_\_ \_\_p\_\_nty s\_\_ndp\_\_p\_\_r\_\_gg."

Pr\_\_f\_\_ss\_\_r St\_\_dd\_\_rd \_\_nd h\_\_r c\_\_ll\_\_g\_\_s cr\_\_t\_\_d \_\_  
m\_\_th\_\_m\_\_t\_\_c\_\_l\_\_f\_\_rm\_\_l\_\_t\_\_m\_\_p\_\_th\_\_ sh\_\_p\_\_ \_\_f\_\_d\_\_ff\_\_r\_\_nt  
\_\_ggs. Th\_\_y l\_\_k\_\_d\_\_t\_\_l\_\_m\_\_st 50,000 \_\_ggs fr\_\_m 1,400  
d\_\_ff\_\_r\_\_nt b\_\_rd sp\_\_c\_\_s. Th\_\_r\_\_s\_\_rch\_\_rs p\_\_t th\_\_ sh\_\_p\_\_,  
l\_\_ngth \_\_nd h\_\_ght \_\_f\_\_ th\_\_ \_\_ggs \_\_nt\_\_ \_\_c\_\_mp\_\_t\_\_r\_\_  
d\_\_t\_\_b\_\_s\_\_. Th\_\_y l\_\_s\_\_l\_\_k\_\_d\_\_t\_\_h\_\_w \_\_v\_\_l th\_\_ \_\_ggs w\_\_r\_\_.  
Th\_\_r\_\_s\_\_rch\_\_rs f\_\_nd th\_\_t th\_\_ b\_\_rds th\_\_t l\_\_d th\_\_  
m\_\_st\_\_v\_\_l\_\_sh\_\_p\_\_d\_\_ggs w\_\_r\_\_ th\_\_ b\_\_st fl\_\_rs. Pr\_\_f\_\_ss\_\_r  
St\_\_dd\_\_rd s\_\_d: "W\_\_w\_\_r\_\_sh\_\_ck\_\_d\_\_t\_\_s\_\_ th\_\_t \_\_n\_\_f\_\_  
th\_\_ b\_\_st \_\_xpl\_\_n\_\_t\_\_ns f\_\_r \_\_gg\_\_sh\_\_p\_\_v\_\_r\_\_t\_\_n\_\_w\_\_s  
fl\_\_ght \_\_b\_\_l\_\_ty." Th\_\_r\_\_s\_\_rch\_\_rs f\_\_nd th\_\_t  
h\_\_mm\_\_ngb\_\_rds \_\_nd s\_\_ndp\_\_p\_\_rs l\_\_d th\_\_ m\_\_st\_\_v\_\_l\_\_  
sh\_\_p\_\_d\_\_ggs; \_\_w\_\_ls l\_\_d th\_\_ r\_\_nd\_\_st\_\_ggs; \_\_nd s\_\_  
b\_\_rds l\_\_d th\_\_ p\_\_nt\_\_st\_\_ggs.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

scientists believe they know why birds' eggs are different shapes some eggs are quite round some are kind of potato-shaped and others are longer and pointy two thousand years ago the greek philosopher aristotle said flatter eggs had female chicks inside them and rounder eggs contained male chicks but he was wrong a new study from princeton university in the usa suggests that the shape of the egg depends on how well and how fast the female bird flies professor mary stoddard said "it has not gone unnoticed that birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are quite diverse in form - everything from a spherical owl egg to a pointy sandpiper egg"

professor stoddard and her colleagues created a mathematical formula to map the shape of different eggs they looked at almost 50000 eggs from 1400 different bird species the researchers put the shape length and height of the eggs into a computer database they also looked at how oval the eggs were the researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers professor stoddard said "we were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape variation was flight ability" the researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers laid the most-oval-shaped eggs owls laid the roundest eggs and sea birds laid the pointiest eggs

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Scientists believe they know why birds' eggs are different shapes. Some eggs are quite round; some are kind of potato-shaped; and others are longer and pointy. Two thousand years ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle said that round eggs had female chicks inside them and rounder eggs contained male chicks. But he was wrong. A new study from Princeton University in the USA suggests that the shape of the egg depends on how well and how fast the female bird flies. Professor Mary Stoddard said: "It has not gone unnoticed that birds have evolved to [lay eggs with] shapes that are required diverse in form - everything from a spherical egg to a pointy sandpiper egg." Professor Stoddard and her colleagues created a mathematical formula to map the shape of different eggs. They looked at almost 50,000 eggs from 1,400 different bird species. The researchers put the shape, length and height of the eggs into a computer database. They also looked at how oval the eggs were. The researchers found that the birds that laid the most-oval-shaped eggs were the best fliers. Professor Stoddard said: "We were shocked to see that one of the best explanations for egg shape variation was flight ability." The researchers found that hummingbirds and sandpipers laid the most-oval-shaped eggs; owls laid the roundest eggs; and seabirds laid the pointiest eggs.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. EGGS:** Make a poster about eggs. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. EGG SHAPE:** Write a magazine article about what we can learn from eggs and their shape. Include imaginary interviews with egg experts and engineers.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on eggs. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on why eggs might have different shapes. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c T    d T    e T    f F    g F    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. believe    | a. think      |
| 2. quite      | b. fairly     |
| 3. contained  | c. held       |
| 4. fast       | d. quickly    |
| 5. evolved    | e. developed  |
| 6. colleagues | f. co-workers |
| 7. map        | g. chart      |
| 8. shocked    | h. amazed     |
| 9. ability    | i. skill      |
| 10. round     | j. circular   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Potatoes
2. Aristotle
3. Princeton
4. Professor
5. Owl
6. A mathematical formula
7. 50,000
8. Oval-shaped eggs
9. Shocked
10. Sea birds

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)