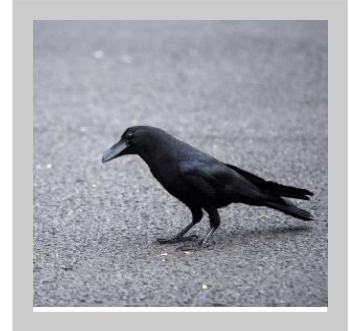


Name _____
Date _____

The American Crow

The American crow is one of approximately forty species of crows around the world. Their feathers are completely black, as are their legs, feet, and beaks. A group of crows is called a flock or a murder. They mate for life and form large families of up to 15 members. Offspring usually stay with their parents for four to five years and help raise their younger siblings.



The American crow has a unique call, a "caw-caw-caw." They usually nod their heads up and down while making this noise. In addition to their own call, crows can make many other sounds as well. They are able to imitate the sounds of other animals, including human words and the calls of other birds.

American crows are known for their intelligence. While humans are generally unable to tell crows apart, crows are able to recognize the facial features of individual humans. They are one of the few species of birds that are able to fashion their own tools. For example, crows can make "knives" out of sharp grasses and stiff leaves.

The American crow is an omnivore, and will feed on carrion (decaying flesh of dead animals), seeds, eggs, human food scraps, insects, vegetables, and grain. Crows actively hunt for small animals such as mice, nestlings, and frogs. In the winter, acorns and nuts are also part of a crow's diet.

1) According to information in paragraph 1, which of the following is true of the American crow?

- I. They are but one of many species of crow.
- II. They are black in color.
- III. Their families may include up to 15 members.

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

2) Based on information in paragraph 1, it can be understood that American crow families are large most likely because they

- A. have few predators
- B. are omnivorous
- C. have a long life expectancy
- D. stay with their families for years

- 3) The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to
- A. explain how the American crow is able to make so many noises
 - B. illustrate the American crow's ability to imitate human words
 - C. demonstrate the American crow's range of unique abilities
 - D. outline the various sounds the American crow is able to make
- 4) As used in paragraph 3, the word **fashion** most nearly means
- A. create
 - B. utilize
 - C. image
 - D. style
- 5) In paragraph 3, the author mentions "knives" in order to
- A. show how dangerous crows can be
 - B. exemplify the crow's intelligence
 - C. support the claim that crows are like humans
 - D. provide an example of a way crows hunt
- 6) Based on information in paragraph 4, we can understand that which of the following things could be included in the diet of an **omnivore**?
- I. chicken
 - II. lettuce
 - III. beetles
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

