

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.

