

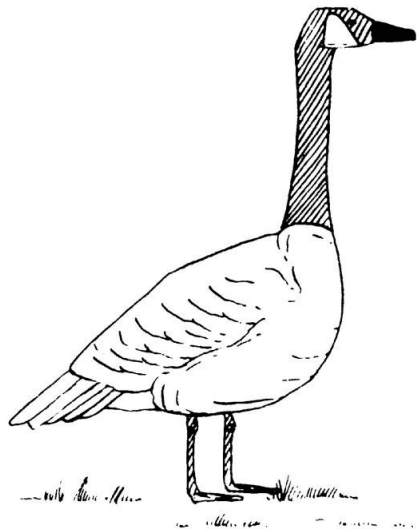


Canada geese are waterfowl. That means they live in or near water. They prefer ponds and lakes, but can also be found near rivers and in marshes. They lay their eggs near the shoreline on the ground. The female builds the nest from plant material and lines it with feather down from her own body. Canada geese make their nests in northern areas where they live over the summer. The male guards the nest while the female sits on the eggs. If you get too close to a goose nest, the male will chase you away. Sometimes he will chase after you with his wings spread, hissing, and try to nip you with his beak. It is best to steer clear of goose nests.

Goslings, or newly hatched geese, are able to swim immediately. Their mother and father both accompany them when they swim, and the goslings can dive up to 40 feet underwater to find food. They have to eat almost constantly from the time they hatch in order to grow enough to make their first migration flight when they are about 9 weeks old.

In autumn, when the weather turns cold and the goslings are strong enough for the trip, geese begin migrating south. The goslings learn the route from their parents and in turn teach it to their young. So a family of geese will travel the same migration route forever.

Canada geese fly at speeds of 40-55 mph. They migrate in a V-shaped formation. They eat grasses, sedges, grains, berries, and aquatic plants. You might see them in a pond with their head underwater and their tail feathers sticking straight up in the air. Their main migration areas are between Canada and the United States. They might summer or winter in your area, depending on what part of North America you live in. You may even only see them as they fly by on the way somewhere else. However you see them, Canada geese are special birds who deserve protection from their most dangerous predator—human progress.



## Questions

1. What kind of birds are Canada Geese? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where do they live? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do they make their nests? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who protects the nest? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are baby geese called? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How soon can goslings swim? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When do Canada geese migrate? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What formation do they use to migrate? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How fast can they fly? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What do Canada geese eat? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Where are their main migration areas? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What is the most dangerous predator of Canada geese? \_\_\_\_\_

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