

Fun Facts and Resources for

Feathers, Flight, & Song



FEATHERS



- Birds are the **only living animals with feathers**.
- Feathers are lightweight growths that cover a bird's body. They provide the color and texture that make each bird species unique.
- Like hair, fingernails, and claws, feathers are made of a substance called **keratin**. Keratin is both lightweight and strong.
- At least once a year birds shed their feathers through a process called **molting**. Then new feathers grow in.
- Birds **preen** by using their beak to straighten and clean their feathers. They apply a special oil or powder on their feathers that makes them waterproof.
- Feathers provide birds with **insulation** to keep them warm, dry, and protected from wind.
- Different kinds of feathers have different purposes:
 - Straight, stiff feathers give birds their ability to fly.
 - Tail feathers help with steering, balance, and braking.
 - Small, fluffy feathers, called down, keep a bird's body from getting too cold and its skin from getting wet.

For more information about **feathers** check out this website and find some photos of birds and their vibrant feathers.

<https://birdfact.com/articles/do-all-birds-have-feathers>