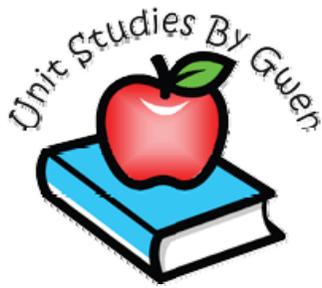


Print double sided. Cut on the red lines. Fold on the dotted lines.



You may print as many of these as you need for your class or other event.

Requests for little books may be sent to gwen@UnitStudiesByGwen.com

Other little books are available by clicking on the "short books" link at www.UnitStudiesByGwen.com

© Gwen Nicodemus, 2007

Hummingbirds

by Gwen Nicodemus



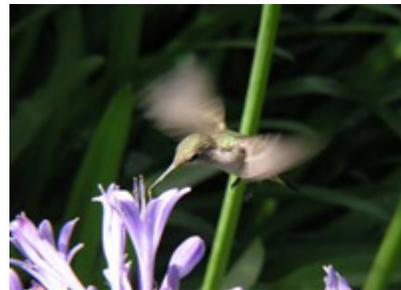
This book belongs to:

What do you like best about hummingbirds?

Get a stopwatch and move your hands up and down. How many times can you move your hands up and down, or "flap" them, in 10 seconds?

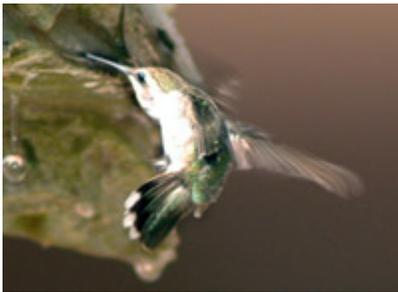
_____ flaps

Hummingbirds can flap their wings between 150 and 800 times in a 10 second period of time.



In fact, hummingbirds can flap their wings so fast that they can *hover*.

By flapping their wings so fast, hummingbirds can stay in the same spot and drink from a flower. They can also fly straight up and down. They can even fly backwards.



There are over 300 different species of hummingbirds.

An old definition of species was a group of animals that can mate and have fertile offspring. Today, genetic analysis is also used in classifying animals.



Print double sided. Cut on the red lines. Fold on the dotted lines.

Hummingbirds have hearts and blood just like people.

Get your stop watch out again and count how many times you feel your heart beat in 10 seconds.

How many times did you heart beat in 10 seconds? _____

A hummingbird's heart can beat as many as 126 times in 10 seconds.



10

If you are ever close to a hummingbird, you might hear it hum. It's not humming with its mouth like you might hum. The noise you hear is from its wings flapping so fast.



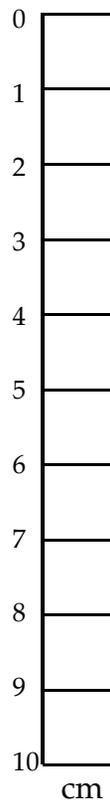
3

Female hummingbirds make nests for their baby birds.

Female hummingbirds usually lay two eggs at a time, and the eggs are white.



8



Hummingbirds are tiny in length also.

The miniature ruler to the left is divided into centimeters (cm). An average size hummingbird (not the biggest and not the smallest) is between 10 and 12 centimeters long.

How long is your smallest finger?

How long is your hand?

5

Some masses:

A New Penny:	2.5 grams
Paperclip:	1 gram
Dime:	2 grams
Quarter:	5 grams

The smallest species of hummingbird weighs 1.8 grams, more than a paperclip but less than a penny.

The largest species of hummingbird weighs 24 grams.

How many dimes would it take to weigh the same as a large hummingbird? _____

4

Hummingbirds eat a lot.

Hummingbirds eat more food than they weigh – every day.

How much do you weigh? _____

How long do you think it would take you to eat as much food as you weigh? _____



9

Male hummingbirds are usually brighter colored than female hummingbirds.

Which hummingbirds below do you think are male? Which are female?



6

Hummingbirds mostly eat and drink nectar. Nectar is made inside flowers.

Hummingbirds help the flowers by pollinating them – bringing nectar from one flower to another. This helps flowers make more flowers.

Flowers help hummingbirds by feeding them.

Hummingbirds also eat insects, especially when they are feeding baby hummingbirds.



7