

SUB TOPIC: WARM BLOODED VERTEBRATES
LESSON 2 : BIRDS (CHARACTERISTICS OF BIRDS)

A bird is warm blooded vertebrate covered with feathers, two wings, two legs and a beak.

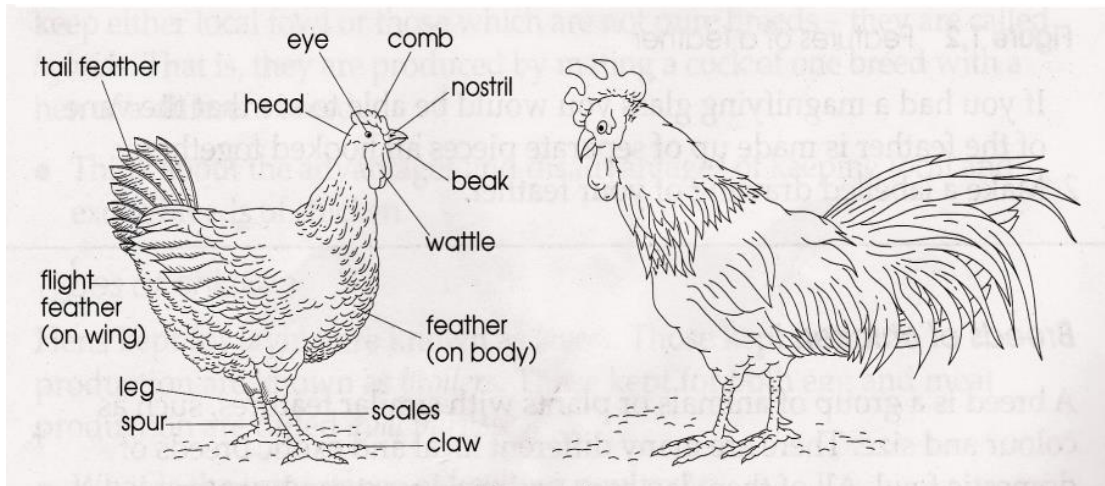
Characteristics of birds

- ❖ They are warm blooded vertebrates.
- ❖ Their legs are covered with scales
- ❖ Their bodies are covered with feathers
- ❖ They reproduce by means of laying eggs.
- ❖ They undergo internal fertilization
- ❖ They breathe using lungs.

NOTE 1: birds use their front limbs modified as wings for flying and the hind limbs for walking.

An illustration showing the external parts of a bird.

NOTE 2: Their skin is dry, loose and has no sweat glands so cooling is by panting. Birds cool their body by panting



Note 3:

A bird has spurs on the legs for protection/defence.

Uses of feathers to birds.

- Feathers provide warmth to the body of the bird.
- Feathers help the bird to fly
- Feathers protect the skin from injury

Activity

1. Give any two characteristics of birds.

i) _____

ii). _____

2. In one sentence give the functions of the following parts of the bird.

a) Talons

b) feathers

c) Beak

3. State how birds reproduce

4. Why are birds called warm blooded animals

5. How do birds cool their bodies when it is hot

6. Give two differences between a hen and a cock

i). _____

ii). _____

7. How do feathers keep birds warm
