The Hummingbird

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read and recall: read the passage carefully two times. Then **fold the page** or cover the passage, and answer the questions from memory.

Memory trick: after each paragraph, stop and say one fact out loud in your own words.

The Hummingbird



Hummingbirds are the smallest birds in the world. The tiniest kind, the bee hummingbird, is about the size of a thumb and weighs less than a penny.

Hummingbirds are amazing fliers. Their wings beat so fast, up to 80 times every second, that they make a humming sound. That is how the birds got their name. They can fly forward, backward and even upside down, and they can hover in one spot like a helicopter.

To get enough energy, hummingbirds must eat almost all day long. They drink sweet nectar from flowers using their long, thin beaks and tongues. They especially like red and orange flowers. They also eat tiny insects for protein.

At night, hummingbirds go into a deep sleep called torpor. Their bodies cool down and their hearts slow, which saves energy until morning.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is the smallest bird in the world?

(a) The bee hummingbird
(b) The robin
(c) The sparrow

2. How did hummingbirds get their name?

(a) They hum songs.
(b) Their fast wings make a humming sound.
(c) They like music.

3. Which colour flowers do hummingbirds especially like?

(a) Blue and purple
(b) Red and orange
(c) White

4. What is torpor?

(a) A kind of nectar
(b) A deep sleep that saves energy
(c) A type of flower

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Cover the passage. Write two facts you remember about how hummingbirds fly.**

2. **Why do hummingbirds need to eat almost all day?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is the smallest bird in the world?

- **a** **The bee hummingbird**
- **b** The robin
- **c** The sparrow

2. How did hummingbirds get their name?

- **a** They hum songs.
- **b** **Their fast wings make a humming sound.**
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3. Which colour flowers do hummingbirds especially like?

- **a** Blue and purple
- **b** **Red and orange**
- **c** White

4. What is torpor?

- **a** A kind of nectar
- **b** **A deep sleep that saves energy**
- **c** A type of flower

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Cover the passage. Write two facts you remember about how hummingbirds fly.**
   They can fly backward and upside down, and their wings beat up to 80 times a second.
2. **Why do hummingbirds need to eat almost all day?**
   They use a lot of energy flying so fast, so they need food all day to have enough energy.