

BALTIMORE ORIOLE Reading Comprehension

The stunning Baltimore oriole is a common summer visitor to Eastern and Midwestern deciduous woodlands, neighborhoods, and gardens. Baltimore orioles winter in the tropics.

About seven inches in length, the male Baltimore oriole has a black head, throat, back, and wings. Its breast, stomach, and rump are bright orange. It also has an orange patch on the top of each wing and white wing bars. The tail is mostly black with orange fringes. The female is dull orange throughout.

Baltimore orioles range throughout the Eastern and Midwestern United States and can be found as far west as the Dakotas. At the western edge of their range, Baltimore orioles may breed with the Bullock's Oriole (they were once considered the same species under the name northern oriole).

Baltimore orioles build unusual pouch-like nests that hang down from branches. They usually nest high in the trees but often come down to lower heights, flashing bright orange and black feathers to delighted observers. Active and acrobatic by nature, Baltimore orioles may even feed upside down at times.

Baltimore orioles eat insects and berries. They can easily be attracted to gardens by nailing orange wedges to tree branches. Baltimore orioles are also known to feed at hummingbird feeders and sapsucker wells.

_____ 1.) Which of the following does not attract the Baltimore oriole?

- a.) oranges
- b.) hummingbird feeders
- c.) sap
- d.) sunflower seeds

_____ 2.) The Baltimore oriole winters in the:

- a.) Dakotas
- b.) Carolinas
- c.) tropics
- d.) desert

_____ 3.) The Baltimore oriole can be found as far west as:

- a.) North and South Dakota
- b.) The Carolinas
- c.) California
- d.) Baltimore

_____ 4.) What color would you not find on a Baltimore oriole?

- a.) purple
- b.) orange
- c.) white
- d.) black

_____ 5.) Which of the following is closest in size to the Baltimore oriole?

- a.) a ruler
- b.) a little more than half of a ruler
- c.) a little less than half of a ruler
- d.) two rulers

_____ 6.) The nest of the Baltimore oriole...

- a.) is in a tree cavity.
- b.) stands upon the branch of a tree.
- c.) hangs from a branch of a tree.
- d.) is usually low in the branches.

_____ 7.) What word best describes the female Baltimore oriole?

- a.) bright orange
- b.) light orange
- c.) dull
- d.) white

_____ 8.) What did the Baltimore oriole used to be called?

- a.) Bullock's Oriole
- b.) Baltimore's oriole
- c.) northern oriole
- d.) southern oriole

_____ 9.) Which of the following is not true about the Baltimore oriole?

- a.) They feed upside down sometimes.
- b.) They may breed with the Bullock's oriole.
- c.) The Baltimore oriole is uncommon.
- d.) The Baltimore oriole has a black throat.

_____ 10.) Where would I probably not find a Baltimore oriole?

- a.) high in the trees
- b.) in gardens and neighborhoods
- c.) deciduous woodlands
- d.) the Arctic tundra