

Museum Birdwatching

Birds of a feather flock together—in the galleries of the DMA!
Explore our feathered friends in works of art and match them to their real-life inspiration.
Find fun facts and check your answers on the back.

1



If we could unfreeze the scene of this painting, what do you think would happen next? What would the bird do? What would the dog do?

2



How is this bird holding its wings? Which way is it holding its head? Act it out!

3



Can you count the number of colors the artist used in this picture? Do you think this bird is painted exactly as the artist saw it? What did the artist change?

4



What do you think might have been stored in this little pot? Notice its spout—a good clue that it could have been used for liquid.

The real-life version of this bird is far more colorful, but ceramics from Peru at this time were traditionally painted using only red and white, no matter the color of their subject.

5



How many birds can you find in this painting?

This type of bird mates for life and is frequently used as symbol for peace or love.

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Although they look a little different, **doves** are actually in the same family as pigeons! These incredible birds can fly up to 110 mph and find their way back to the nest from 1,300 miles away.



This bird is the **Andean condor**—a bird with really, really big wings that soars over the mountains in South America. The Andean condor is the largest flying bird in the world by combined measurement of weight and wingspan. It has a maximum wingspan 10 feet 10 inches! The white feathers around its neck look like a collar.



Although **macaws** have brightly colored feathers, their dazzling appearance is actually a form of camouflage! Bright colors help these birds blend in well in their home, the Amazon jungle, where they hide among bright fruits and flowers and vivid green canopies. Macaws have strong, curved beaks designed to crush their favorite food-- nuts and seeds.



There are 64 different species of heron around the world. **Hérons** can be recognized by their long legs, used for wading in shallow water, and their sharp beak which they use to spear fish.



Owls are nocturnal birds, meaning they are most active at night. A group of owls is called a parliament.

Now turn your eyes to the sky and search for birds in your own backyard!

Answers:

1. Heron; 2. Condor; 3. Owl; 4. Macaw; 5. Dove