



The tapping of the woodpecker

Have you ever heard a rhythmic knock in the forest? That was most certainly a woodpecker!

Woodpeckers are cave breeders. With their sharp, pointed and hard beak they make their caves in trees. Listen to the little story of the **black woodpecker**:

www.bszwillbrock.de/de/audioguide

No. 22: „Schwarzspecht – Nachmieter gesucht“

Would you have thought that for the former home of this big black bird with the red cap there would be so many new occupants?

Woodpeckers can be heard not only in the forest, but also in parks and gardens. There are over 200 types of woodpecker worldwide. The **great spotted woodpecker** is the most common and well-known species here. It mainly eats the larvae of longhorn and bark beetles.

The **European green woodpecker**, on the other hand, loves ants. While most woodpeckers look for their food on trees, this kind finds its food mainly on the ground!

great spotted woodpecker

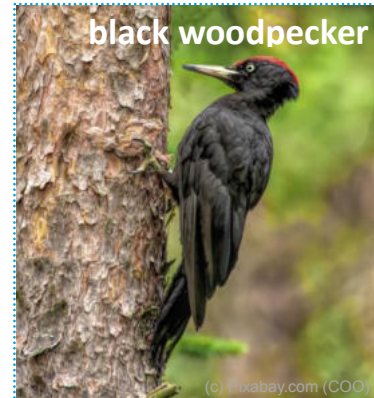


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European green woodpecker



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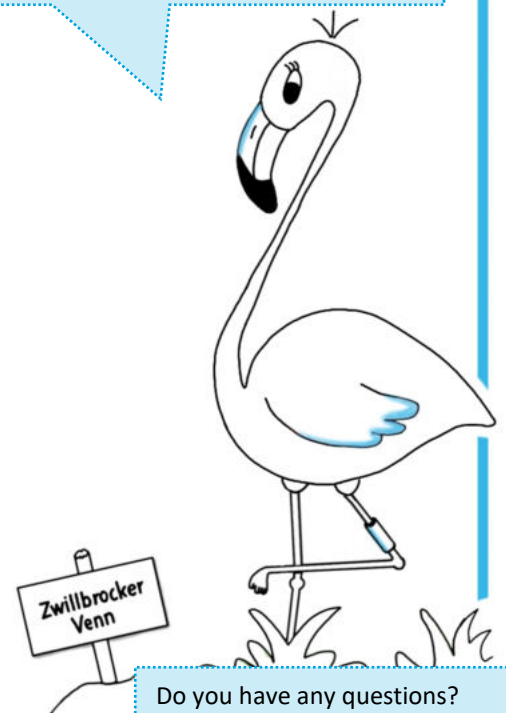


black woodpecker

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Hi, I'm Frida Flamingo!
The black woodpecker lives in old, extensive forests. There it takes on an important role in the forest's ecosystem!

As it builds caves, it also creates a new habitat for other animal species.



Do you have any questions?
Write to Flamingo Frida at:
familie-forscht@bszwillbrock.de



Adaptation of the woodpeckers to their habitat

Woodpeckers spend most of their lives in trees. They are perfectly adapted to this living space!

Match the terms with the picture, connect with lines.

Supporting tail with reinforced quills

Climbing feet with reversible toe

long, worm-shaped tongue with barbs and / or sticky tip

strong chisel beak

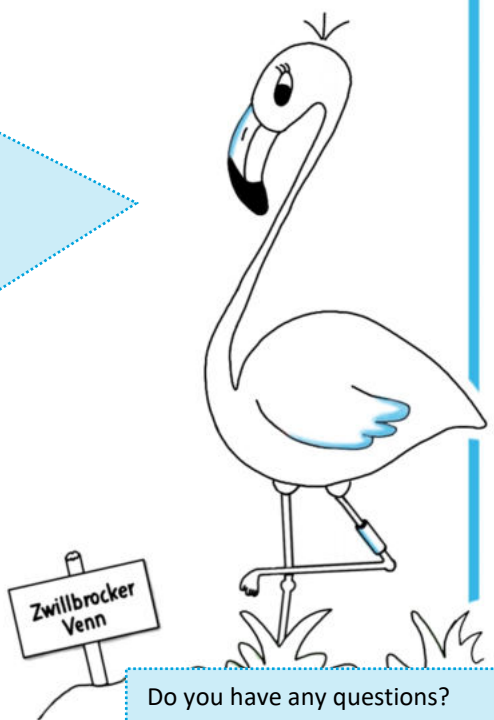


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Woodpeckers live in trees! They ...

- ... hop up the trunk and look for their food on and under the bark
- ... communicate with other individuals by drumming their beaks on a branch, e.g. when looking for a partner or to show their right to a territory.
- ... sleep and nest in tree hollows that they make themselves.

Despite the similarities, all species have different demands on their habitat (different food / trees / structures). This is smart because it helps them avoid competition!



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Beaks are the birds' tools

Beaks are the specialized tools of birds.

The shapes and sizes of the beaks are as unique as the different bird species.

The shape already gives indications to their diet.

Can you assign the tools to the beaks? Find out what the birds eat and where they find their food.

You can find information about this in a bird identification book and on numerous websites.



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Kormoran
(c) pixabay.com (CCO)



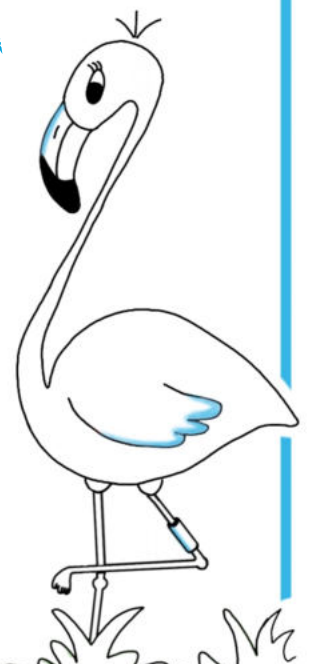
Großer Brachvogel
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Flamingo
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Ente
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The shape of the beak and tongue is also slightly different for the different types of woodpecker.

Different species are therefore specialists in gathering very different foods. Each type has its own "niche" and so there is less competition!

Show me your beak and I'll tell you what you eat!

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What can you do to help woodpeckers?

If you are interested in the topic, then surf the Internet. You can find information and more for example here:

- Film: „Ganz schön behämmert“ with woodpecker scientist Klaus Ruge from the SWR
<https://www.planet-schule.de/sf/filme-online.php?film=4892&reihe=85&sej>

✓ Checklist for forest protectors:

- Use as little paper as possible
- Using recycled paper saves resources
- Use FSC-certified wood products, these come from environmentally friendly forestry
- Throw waste paper into the paper bin
- Reduce meat consumption, because (rain) forest is destroyed for pasture and animal feed cultivation
- "No advertising please!" On the mailbox saves paper
- Find allies and plant trees

By doing so you are not only helping the woodpeckers, many other animals and plants also live and grow in forests! Forests are even more than a habitat and a source of raw materials. Forests produce a lot of oxygen that we need to breathe! At the same time, they absorb CO₂ that is harmful to the climate, because it is responsible for the warming of the earth. Forests have many functions!

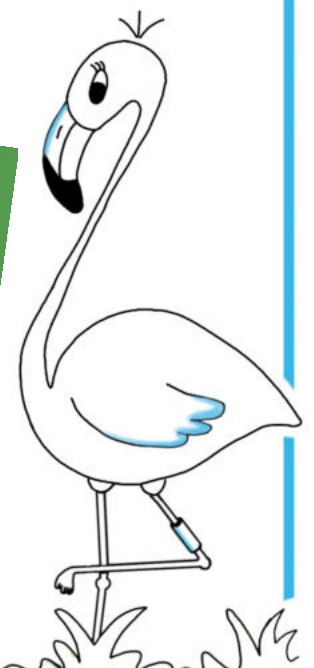
Black woodpeckers need old forests. There they live in beeches and spruces that are around 100 years old!

Great spotted woodpeckers live in almost all forests, on the edge of forests and in the trees in orchards.

Green woodpeckers prefer forest edges and orchards as a habitat. All of them need:

- Diverse forests as a habitat
- Insects as their food

Tip: Protecting forests means protecting habitats!



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Colouring picture great spotted woodpecker



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Will you give the great spotted woodpecker some colour? Its plumage is very striking! Paint the great spotted woodpecker in its environment.

Tip: Take a close look! You can find woodpeckers in comparison by the NABU:

<https://www.nabu.de/tiere-und-pflanzen/aktionen-und-projekte/stunde-der-gartenvoegel/voegel-bestimmen/13776.html>

Tip: When experimenting follow general safety instructions!



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More information at:

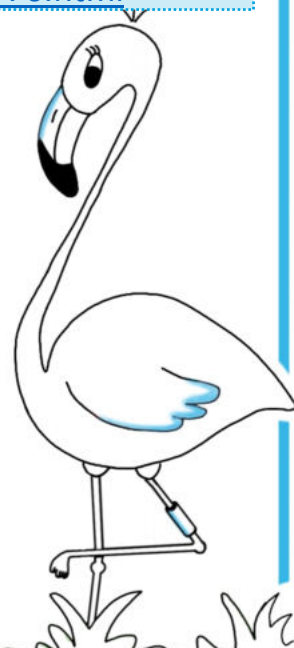
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