

# Smarty Pants Magazine for Kids

## Curriculum Corner - Ostrich

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 1: Comprehensive Questions pdf Printout Worksheet

\*Fill in the blanks of the sentences with the best word from the list.

\*Remember to cross out the word on the list when you use it in a sentence.

Ratite      Africa      New Zealand      giant Moa and the elephant bird  
rocks      Australia      omnivore      big cats      South America  
legs and stride

1. Ostriches, emus, kiwis, and rheas are in the **r** \_\_\_\_\_  
family of flightless birds.

2. Ostriches are found on the continent of **A** \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Emus are found on the continent of **A** \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Kiwis are found on the island of **N** \_\_\_\_\_ **Z** \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Rheas are found on the continent of **S** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Name 2 extinct members of the ratite family. **g** \_\_\_\_\_

m\_\_\_\_\_ ; and the e\_\_\_\_\_

b\_\_\_\_\_.

7. An animal that eats both plants and meat is called an

o\_\_\_\_\_.

8. To help food digestion, an ostrich will swallow r\_\_\_\_\_.

9. The main predators of ostriches are the b\_\_\_\_\_

c\_\_\_\_\_.

10. Ostriches run fast because they have strong l\_\_\_\_\_

and a long s\_\_\_\_\_.

## Activity 2: Comprehensive Questions in True False Verbal Answer

### Options for Group Response to Verbal Questions

1. random answers verbal responses
2. True False Flashcards, non verbal response - *Make T/F cards by cutting 2" x 2" squares in a set for each child in class. Use Yellow and write True or Letter T. Use Red and write False or F. Read the questions and allow child to hold up answer card.*

### True False Questions for the Teacher:

1. Ostriches and emus are in the same family of animals. **True**
2. Kiwis and rheas are in the ratite family. **True**
3. Birds in the ratite family cannot fly. **True**
4. Most ostriches are in Africa. **True**
5. The cassowary ratite is not dangerous. **False.** (Has sharp razor-like claws).
6. The kiwi is bigger than the ostrich. **False.** (It is only the size of a chicken).
7. The rhea cousin of the ostrich lives in Africa. **False.** (South America)
8. Ostriches eat rocks. **True.** (To help digest their food).
9. Ostriches can run 43 miles an hour. **True**
10. The main predator of the ratite family of flightless birds is the zebra. **False.** (Big cats).
11. An ostrich buries his head in the sand when he is afraid. **False**
12. An ostrich has two toes on each foot. **True**
13. An ostrich egg is the size of a chicken's egg. **False.** (The size of a dozen chickens).
14. The ratite that is the size of a chicken is the kiwi. **True**
15. The ratite family of flightless birds can't fly because they have no wings. **False.** (They have no breast bone and no wing muscles).
16. The longer legs you have, the greater stride you have. **True**
17. If you have shorter legs, you have to run with faster steps. **True**
18. People can ride ostriches. **True**
19. I think I am a good runner.
20. I think I could run faster than an ostrich.

## Resource 1: Glossary

<b>accelerate</b>	to move faster
<b>Africa</b>	2nd largest of the 7 continents of the world. Surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Indian Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean
<b>Australia</b>	7th largest of the 7 continents of the world. Located in the South Pacific Ocean, and Southeast Asia
<b>Cassowary</b>	in the ratite family of flightless birds in Australia
<b>Elephant bird</b>	extinct ratite of Madagascar
<b>Emu</b>	largest ratite of the continent of Australia
<b>extinct</b>	no longer exists in the world
<b>frequency</b>	how often something happens
<b>Giant Moa</b>	extinct ratite of New Zealand
<b>length</b>	the measure of an object from end to end
<b>Madagascar</b>	an island in the Indian Ocean. Located off the Southeast coast of Africa
<b>menu</b>	a list of food choices
<b>New Zealand</b>	an independent island nation in the Southwest Pacific Ocean, off the East coast of Australia
<b>omnivore</b>	eats both plants and meat
<b>ostrich</b>	the largest ratite
<b>relative</b>	a member of a family
<b>rodent</b>	group of mammals (rats, mice, squirrels) with teeth gnawing
<b>South America</b>	4th largest of the 7 continents in the world. Located between the Caribbean Sea, South Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean
<b>stride</b>	a long step in walking

Ostrich Coloring Sheet - see separate pdf

### **The Ostrich Wins the Race - The 'Ratite' Family of Flightless Birds**

Imagine if the ostriches of Southern Africa invited their cousins around the world to come for a family reunion . The Masai ostriches of East Africa would come with their beautiful pink necks and legs.

The Northeast Somali ostriches of the Horn of Africa would arrive with their blue necks and legs to rival the Masai ostriches.

The three-toed emus would come from Australia. The medium-sized rheas would come from South America.

The little kiwis, no bigger than a chicken, would come from New Zealand, off the SE coast of Australia. And the short, heavy and dangerous razor-clawed cassowaries would come from the islands north of Australia.

(But they would all have to fly commercial airline, because they are flightless, remember!)

### **Ratite Family Members That Couldn't Make It**

Unfortunately, the Giant Moa of New Zealand, the elephant bird of Madagascar, the Arabian ostrich of the Near East and the Asian ostrich of China would not be able to come because they are extinct.

### **How Birds Party!**

Being omnivores, they might enjoy a picnic of plants with rodents, insects, or lizards. And, they would certainly want to play racing games. The ostrich would win easily at 43 mph, with the emu in second place at 32 mph. The smaller other relatives would just do the best they can.

### **Did You Know?**

- 90% of all the world's ostriches are in Africa
- An ostrich can cover over 16 feet in one stride
- An ostrich can weight 250-350 pounds
- The ostrich swallows sand and pebbles to grind up his food
- The ostrich has only two toes on each foot
- An ostrich egg is as big as a dozen chicken eggs
- The ostrich doesn't really bury his head in the sand

### **Why Can't They Fly?**

The birds of the Ratite family do not have breast bones connected to their flying muscles in the wings that allow for flight.

### **Why Do They Run So Fast?**

Because they are the 'main course' on the lunch menu of the big cats - lions, leopards, cheetahs, and jaguars.

### **How Can 'Big Bird' Run So Fast?**

Ostriches have long slender legs designed for strength, balance, and acceleration. Their wing movements serve them for steering and also balancing at high speed.

## **More Secrets of Running Fast**

For speed in running, animals and people too, run faster by:

1. *increasing the length of the stride or*
2. *increasing the frequency of steps*

The longer legs you have, the greater stride you will have.

The ostrich can cover over 16-feet in one stride. Both ostrich legs come off the ground at the same time as they bound across the savannah. All the muscles in the legs of the ostrich are located close to his rounded body. Powerful upper thigh and buttocks muscles accelerate the bird outward.

His rotund body and long outstretched neck provides a perfect center of gravity that keeps his upper body straight while his legs do all the work.

The best runners make it look like they are running effortlessly.

## **The Outlook for Ostrich Survival**

The common ostrich in South Africa is plentiful across the plains and in the woodlands

The ostrich in the African regions of Kenya and Tanzania are hanging on. The Somali ostrich of Africa is vulnerable. The little kiwi is vulnerable. Rheas are near threatened. Cassowaries are of least concern. But all ratites, like all animals in the wild, are declining, due to the continuing threat of the 2Hs: Hunting by man for meat and plumage, and loss of habitat.

***Maybe YOU are a runner? Have you ever tried Track and Field athletic events? These include many different lengths of running, like short, fast distances, relay races with teams, cross country, hurdles, standing and broad jumping, pole vaulting. And you can always just run, for fun!***

*Check with your teacher or coach for information on this sport.*