



Dive deep into the world of common loons, the amazing water birds with striking red eyes! Known for their black-and-white checkered backs and glossy black heads, these birds are real beauties. They have long, pointed beaks, perfect for catching their dinner, and their legs are set far back on their bodies which makes them excellent swimmers. But don't be fooled, though they look a bit like ducks, they're a completely different species!



Speaking of dinner, let's dive into the underwater world where common loons love to feast. These birds are carnivores, meaning they eat meat, and their menu includes all sorts of fish, frogs, crustaceans and even some aquatic plants. They're like little underwater rockets, diving up to 200 feet to snag a tasty fish or two! So if you're a small fish, a loon might be the last thing you want to see.

From their watery feeding grounds, let's fly to the places they call home. Common loons can be found in the wild, beautiful lakes and ponds of North America, especially in Canada and the northern United States. During winter, they migrate to the coast, trading in their freshwater homes for the salty sea. Their nests are usually made on the ground near water, where they lay one or two eggs each year.



From their unique homes and habits, let's look at how common loons interact with others. These birds are generally peaceful and keep to themselves, but they can be quite territorial, especially when it comes to their nests. They interact with humans mostly through birdwatching and photography, as they're not typically kept as pets. And just like that, we've taken a fun journey into the world of common loons, the amazing and unique water birds.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What color are the eyes of common loons?  
A. Green  
B. Red  
C. Black  
D. Blue
- 2) What do common loons do during winter?  
A. Climb up trees with dense leaves  
B. Hibernate in tree hollows  
C. Migrate to the coast  
D. Dig burrows deep in the earth
- 3) Where can common loons be found?  
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- 5) What type of species are common loons often confused with?  
A. Ducks  
B. Swans  
C. Turkeys  
D. Eagles
- 6) How far can common loons dive to catch a fish?  
A. Up to 150 feet  
B. Up to 100 feet  
C. Up to 200 feet  
D. Up to 50 feet
- 7) How many eggs do common loons lay each year?  
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- 8) What is the primary diet of Common Loons?  
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- 9) What is a characteristic of common loons' legs that makes them excellent swimmers?  
A. They are short  
B. They are long  
C. They are set far back on their bodies  
D. They have webbed toes
- 10) What color are the checkered backs of the common loons?  
A. Yellow and blue  
B. Black and white  
C. Green and yellow  
D. Red and black

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "I belong to the duck species, we just have a more unique look."
- 12) "I must say, I'm a terrible swimmer. My legs are positioned closer to the middle of my body, making it hard to navigate the waters."



- 13) "My home sweet home is usually made on the ground near the water, where I lay one or two eggs every year."
- 14) "Water is my dinner table and I love eating fish, frogs, and even some plants that grow underwater!"
- 15) "Winters are my favorite! I love staying in the chilly North American region."
- 16) "I'm not one to eat meat, I'm more of a fan of seaweed and other water plants."
- 17) "You can see me in lakes and ponds in Canada and the northern United States, but I like going to the coast during winter."
- 18) "Every year, I lay a dozen eggs up in a tree!"
- 19) "I reside in the dry, sandy deserts, far from any bodies of water."
- 20) "Being underwater terrifies me, I can barely dive up to 10 feet."
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- 22) "With my striking red eyes I sure stand out among my feathery friends!"
- 23) "Even though you might think otherwise, I am allergic to fish."
- 24) "Humans keep me as a companion at home."
- 25) "I mostly keep to myself, but I can get a bit grumpy if someone comes near my nest. That's my territory!"

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 26) Common loons make their habitats in the freshwater lakes and ponds of North America, often in Canada and the northern parts of the United States.
- 27) The red eyes of common loons look scary when seen up close.
- 28) These birds eat meat and are not vegetarian.
- 29) Common loons are the most fascinating birds to watch because of their unique way of swimming.
- 30) Common loons have bodies perfectly shaped for swimming because their legs are positioned quite far back on their bodies.
- 31) Loons are better than ducks in every way.
- 32) Common loons usually lay only one or two eggs a year.
- 33) Loons are different from ducks even if they might look a bit similar.
- 34) Common loons look much more stylish than other birds with their black-and-white checkered backs.
- 35) Seeing a common loon emerge from deep water with a fish in its beak is an incredible sight.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 36) A common loon nest typically has only an egg or two each year.
- 37) Common loons cannot dive deeper than 50 feet from the surface.
- 38) Common loons can dive up to 200 feet to catch their prey.
- 39) During the winter, loons fly to Africa to escape the cold.
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- 41) Loons are vegetarians.
- 42) Female loons can have up to 50 chicks in a year.
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- 46) Common loons can fly long distances during migration.
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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |           |
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| 10. _____ | 35. _____ |           |
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| 12. _____ | 37. _____ |           |
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| 14. _____ | 39. _____ |           |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |           |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |           |
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| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |           |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |           |
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- |                  |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>B</u>      | 26. <u>fact</u>          | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u>      | 27. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 3. <u>D</u>      | 28. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 4. <u>B</u>      | 29. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 5. <u>A</u>      | 30. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 6. <u>C</u>      | 31. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
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| 9. <u>C</u>      | 34. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 10. <u>B</u>     | 35. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 11. <u>false</u> | 36. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 12. <u>false</u> | 37. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 13. <u>true</u>  | 38. <u>true</u>          |                          |
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| 18. <u>false</u> | 43. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 22. <u>true</u>  | 47. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 25. <u>true</u>  | 50. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |



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