

INDIAN PEAFOWL

Pavo cristatus

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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Bird (pheasant family, Phasianidae)
NATIVE REGION	Indian subcontinent
HABITAT	Forests and farmland
DIET	Omnivore: seeds, grain, berries, insects, worms
SIZE	3 to 4 feet, plus a train of up to 5 feet on males
WEIGHT	6 to 13 lb
LIFESPAN	15 to 20 years in the wild; up to 25 in human care
STATUS	Least Concern



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Only the male is a peacock. A female is a peahen, and a young bird is a peachick.
- A peacock's fan is not his tail. It is a train of long upper-tail feathers.
- A male's train can reach five feet long. He sheds it every year and grows it back by spring.
- Peafowl can fly well enough to reach a tree branch, where they roost at night.
- Peachicks hatch ready to walk and follow their mother.

Words to know

Train: The long display feathers of a peacock.

Eyespot: A round, eye-like mark on a feather.

Roost: To rest or sleep, often up in a tree.

Camouflage: Colors that help an animal blend in.

Think about it

1. What is the difference between a peacock, a peahen and a peachick?
2. Is a peacock's fan really its tail? Explain.
3. Why do peafowl sleep up in trees at night?
4. How do a peahen's brown and gray feathers help her?
5. How is the green peafowl different from the Indian peafowl?

Draw it

Draw a peacock with his fan raised. Label his blue neck, his train and the eyespots. Then draw a peahen beside him.

Draw here