MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

INDIAN PEAFOWL

Pavo cristatus

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

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 about 4 feet on males
WEIGHT	6 to 13 lb
LIFESPAN	15 to 20 years in the wild; up to about 23 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 averages about four feet. 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.

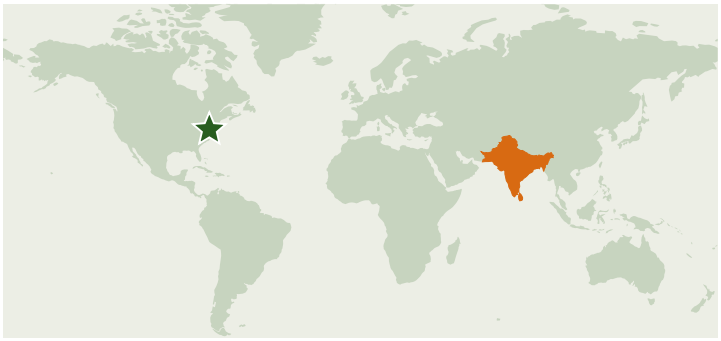
Think about it

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.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 1–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 3-LS4-2 · 1-LS1-2**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.3.F · 3.1.1.B**

Draw here

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/birds/peafowl/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web; IUCN Red List (BirdLife International).
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 3-LS4-2 (3.1.3.F) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo

INDIAN PEAFOWL

Before and after your visit

 © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the Indian peafowl live?
Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?
☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.
☐ Train ☐ Eyespot ☐ Roost ☐ Camouflage

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the Indian peafowl.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?
☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching
☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: Indian subcontinent. Was your guess right?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Omnivore: seeds, grain, berries, insects, worms. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

- Is a peacock's fan really its tail? Explain.

_____

- Why do peafowl sleep up in trees at night?

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT
Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.