MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

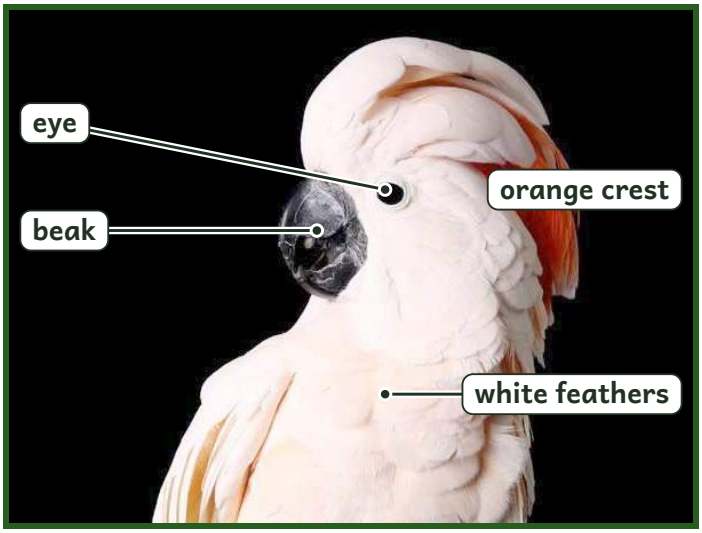
MOLUCCAN COCKATOO

Cacatua moluccensis

GRADES K–2

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.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A Moluccan cockatoo at our zoo.

Its body

It is *a* big white bird.
It has *a* **crest** on its head.
Orange feathers hide in the crest.

Its home (habitat)

It lives on islands in Indonesia.
It lives in forests.
This kind is **endangered**.
Saving forests helps it.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats seeds and nuts.
It eats fruit and some bugs.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby is *a* **chick**.
A mother usually lays 2 eggs.
Both parents keep them warm.
Both parents care for the chicks.

Fun facts

It uses its beak like *a* third hand!
It climbs with its beak.

Words to know

chick: *a* baby bird
crest: feathers on top of *a* bird's head
endangered: at risk, so it needs help

Talk about it

1. What hides in *a* cockatoo's crest?
2. How does it use its beak to climb?
3. Who cares for the chicks?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/birds/moluccan-cockatoo-2/ · **Sources:** World Parrot Trust; BirdLife International.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 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 · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

MOLUCCAN COCKATOO

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the moluccan cockatoo fact sheet for grades K–2 · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A cockatoo has a crest. **YES** **NO**
2. Only the mother cares for chicks. **YES** **NO**
3. A mother usually lays 2 eggs. **YES** **NO**
4. It lives in the ocean. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ crest
- ☐ beak
- ☐ eye
- ☐ white feathers
- ☐ orange feathers
- ☐ toes

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating climbing resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a cockatoo with its crest up. Color the crest.

Draw here

A cockatoo has a _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular moluccan cockatoo sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/birds/moluccan-cockatoo-2/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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