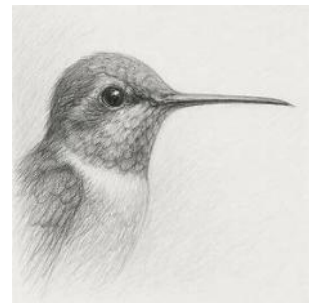


Name _____

Tiny Wonders: Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are some of the most amazing birds in the world! They are the smallest birds in North America. A ruby-throated hummingbird is only about three inches long, not much bigger than a ping pong ball!

These tiny birds have incredible bodies. Their feathers can shine in bright, iridescent colors like green, red, and blue. The colors seem to change when the light hits them. They have long, thin beaks perfect for sipping sweet nectar from deep inside flowers. Their wings are special, too. They can flap their wings up to 80 times per second! This allows them to do something no other bird can: hover in mid-air. They can even fly backwards and upside down!



Hummingbird beak

When they fly so fast, they use a lot of energy. To keep going, a hummingbird must eat almost all day. It visits hundreds of flowers for nectar. It also eats tiny insects for protein. A hummingbird's heart beats over 1,200 times a minute. At night, they go into a deep sleep called torpor to save energy, slowing their bodies down until the sun comes up.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - a) All about flowers
 - b) The characteristics and behavior of hummingbirds
 - c) How birds build nests
2. What is special about how a hummingbird flies?
 - a) It can only fly in straight lines.
 - b) It can hover in place, fly backwards, and upside down.
 - c) It is the fastest flying bird.
3. What do hummingbirds eat? (Choose all that apply)
 - a) Nectar from flowers
 - b) Seeds from bird feeders
 - c) Tiny insects