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LESSON 1: Introduction and Classification

FACTS TO KNOW

1. **taxonomic classification** – a scientific way of grouping living or extinct organisms
2. **scientific name** – usually derived from Latin or Greek and consisting of two parts, the genus and species
3. **vertebrate** – animals with backbones, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Give one example of where birds can be found in mythology or culture.

In Norse mythology, the ravens Huginn and Muninn gathered news for Odin. In Greek mythology, Aphrodite rode a chariot drawn by doves. In Great Britain, the appearance of a Golden Eagle was thought to signify an important event. A lone eagle on a crag foretold the coming of an enemy.

2. Why do scientists use taxonomic classification?

Scientists use taxonomic classification to group organisms into similar species.

3. What are the eight categories of taxonomy, from broadest to most specific?

The eight taxonomic categories are domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species.

4. What two names are given for each bird?

Each bird has a common name and scientific name.

5. How do you recognize the scientific name?

It is usually italicized, is derived from Greek or Latin, and consists of two parts, the genus and species.

6. Why is it important to know not only the common name, but the scientific name as well?

The common name will vary, but the scientific name is the same across the world.

BIRD FACTS

1. Common Grackle

- a. Scientific name: Quiscalus quiscula
- b. Habitat: common and widespread, edges of dense evergreen forests or small woodlots
- c. Song: unmusical, harsh, metallic hiss "khr-reezzh"
- d. Fun fact: Answers will vary.

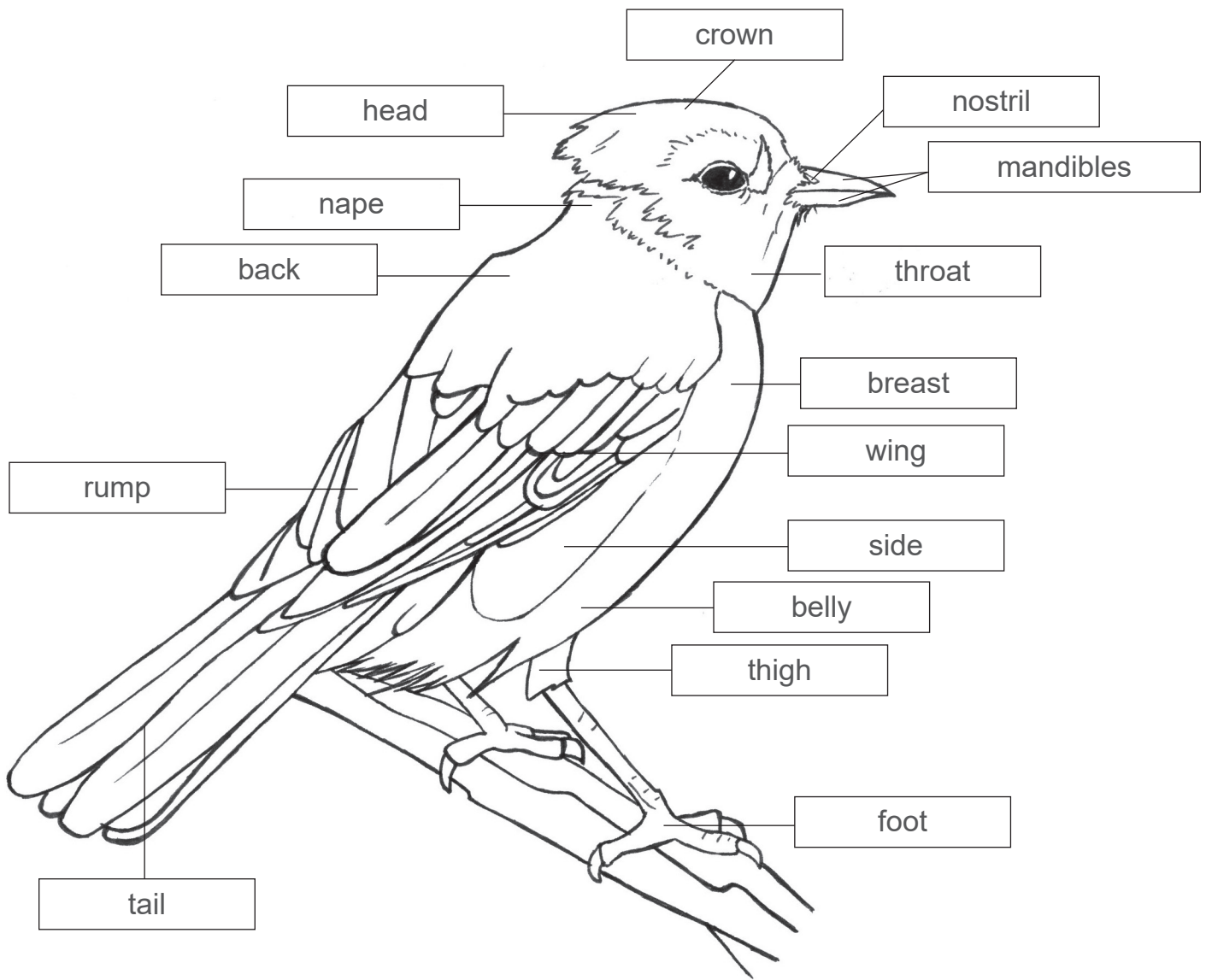
2. European Starling

- a. Scientific name: Sturnus vulgaris
- b. Habitat: abundant and widespread, birdhouses, building crevices, tree cavities
- c. Song: mushy, gurgling, hissing chatter with high sliding whistles "che-che-che-che"
- d. Fun fact: Answers will vary.

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Discuss other mythologies or stories where birds have played a part.

DIAGRAM: Fill in the following blanks.



LESSON 1 QUIZ: Introduction and Classification

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

BIRD IDENTIFICATION: 2 pts. each

1. _____
2. _____

SONG IDENTIFICATION: 2 pts. each

1. _____
2. _____

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: 3 pts. each

1. What two names are given for each bird?

2. How do you recognize the scientific name?

3. Why is it important to know not only the common name, but the scientific name as well?

DIAGRAM: Use the word bank to label the diagram below. 1 pt. each

back	breast	foot	mandibles	nostril	side	thigh	wing
belly	crown	head	nape	rump	tail	throat	

