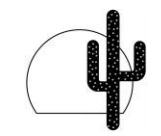
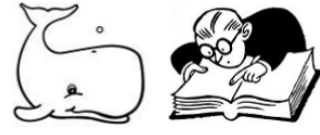




READING in GEOGRAPHY

ROADRUNNER



The roadrunner is more correctly called the greater roadrunner. It also goes by the _____ of snake killer, ground cuckoo or chaparral cock. The bird is found in South West USA and in large areas of _____. The bird's environment is desert or semi _____.

The bird is capable of speeds in excess of 30kmph on the ground, faster than a child can _____. The name "roadrunner" derives from the bird's habit of running down the road in front of _____. The bird is clever enough to dash to safety in the brush before being run down. The bird will also play dare by running across the road in front of cars. With the daredevil games it plays, it is fortunate the bird has good speed.

The adult roadrunner measures up to 60cm in length. About half that length is tail and the other half is a streaky brown body with a slender pointed bill. Although capable of flight the bird spends most of its time on the _____. It nests on the ground in cactus or bush and produces 3-6 eggs that hatch in 20 _____. The bird walks rapidly around its habitat and, as occasion demands, runs down its _____. While it mainly feeds on insects the greater roadrunner also feeds on reptiles, rodents, spiders, scorpions, centipedes and _____ and small birds. It also enjoys eggs and small carcasses. The bird kills the prey with its beak. It is capable of killing small rattlesnakes. Indeed, with the help of another roadrunner the bird can kill quite large _____. The birds will often be seen jumping about the desert to catch its main game, insects. It also eats fruit and _____.

Some local Indian tribes believed the bird was good luck and a protection against evil _____. Mexican people attach the same meaning to the roadrunner as others do to the stork – it brings _____. Early explorers maintained that the bird lead people to trails, which was important in the unexplored, harsh arid environment. Along with these legends it is also the State Bird of New Mexico, U.S.A..



COMPREHENSION

REWRITE
- Explorer

1. What is another name for the roadrunner? S _____ K _____
2. In which two countries can you find the roadrunner? _____
3. In what type of environment does the bird live? _____
4. How fast can the roadrunner run? _____
5. Where does the roadrunner enjoy playing games? _____
6. How big is the bird? _____
7. How many roadrunners would it take to kill a large snake? _____
8. If seen jumping around, what is the bird seeking to catch? _____
9. What did Indians believe the bird protected against? _____
10. What did explorers say of the bird? _____

wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Roadrunner

CLOZE

GROUND
RUN
PREY
MEXICO
DAYS
DESERT
NAMES
CARS
SEEDS
BABIES
SNAKES
MILLIPEDES
SPIRITS

MISSING
WORDS

