

Animal Facts:

Parrots

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Parrots are colourful birds with curved bills for eating fruits and seeds and for cracking nuts. They are very noisy birds and they live mostly in tropical rainforests.



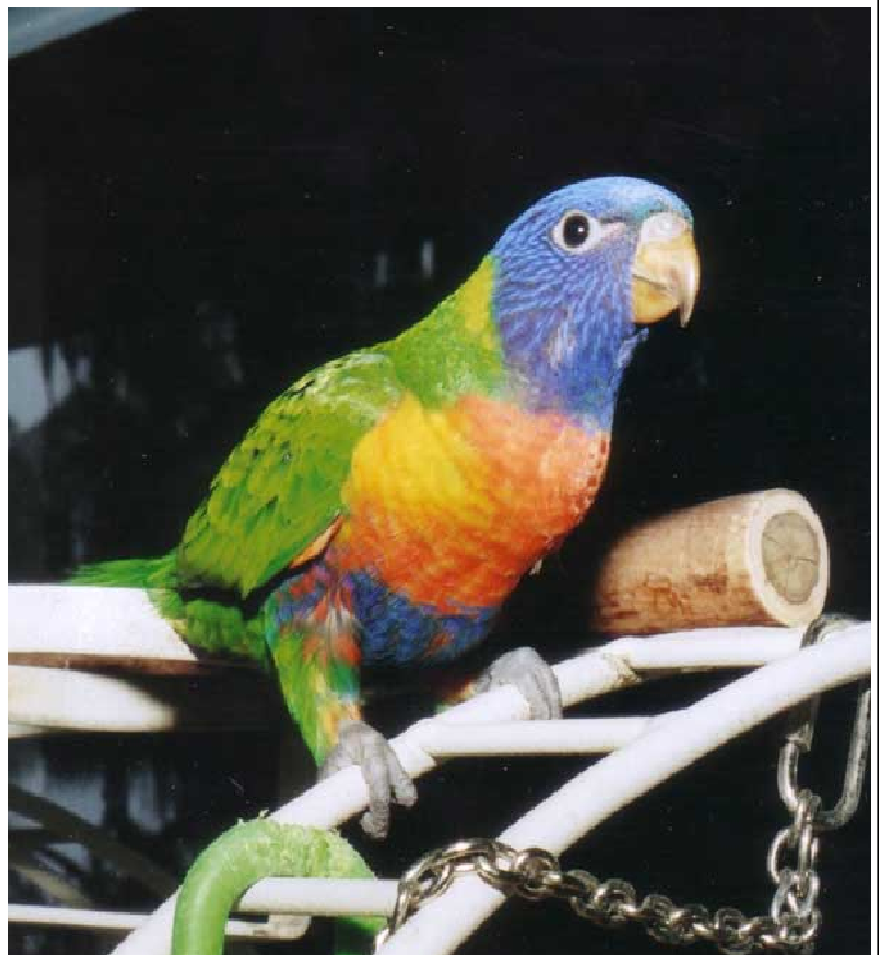
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Parrots have feet with two toes pointing forwards and two backwards, allowing them to grip branches and hold food.



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There are 330 or so parrot species divided into three main groups - true parrots, cockatoos and lorries.



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Half of all parrot species, including macaws, green Amazon parrots and parakeets, live in Latin America.



Australia and New Guinea are home to parrots called cockatoos (which are white feathered crests on their heads), as well as to lorries and lorikeets.



The budgerigar is a small parakeet from central Australia which is very popular as a pet.



The hanging parrots of Southeast Asia get their name because they sleep upside down like bats.



The kea of New Zealand is a parrot that eats meat as well as fruit. It was once wrongly thought to be a sheep killer.



Parrots are well known for their mimicry of human voices. Some have a repertoire of 300 words or more.



An African grey parrot called Alex was trained by scientist Irene Pepperburg to identify at least 50 different objects. Alex could ask for each of these objects in English - and also refuse them.

