

# HUMMINGBIRDS

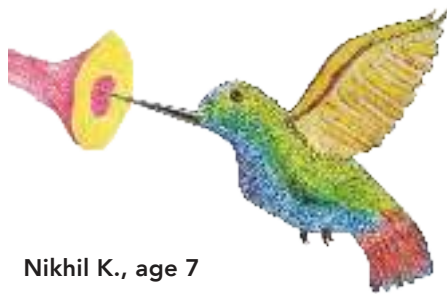
## Zooworks



Eden R., age 8

Zip, zoom, what was that?  
 I like wearing flowers for hats.  
 I'm a hummingbird, and that's for sure.  
 I know that this may sound absurd,  
 But we're the smallest birds,  
 And I can fly backwards!

By Zoe F., age 10



Nikhil K., age 7



Charlotte P., age 9

Hummingbird, hummingbird, fly, fly, fly.  
 Fly forward, fly backward, side to side.  
 Loop-de-loop, twist and spin.  
 Flying through the sky.

Flying from flower to flower  
 Under the bright sunny sky.  
 Gathering nectar as you go.  
 Eat, eat, eat hungry hummingbird  
 Flying through the sky.

Hummingbird fluttering to and fro.  
 Her little wings fluttering so fast it's a blur.  
 No walking or hopping for her.  
 Fly, fly hummingbird.

By Maria B., age 10

Hummingbirds, big or small,  
 Are all unique as we admire them with interest,  
 Some have cool looking bills, some have vibrant colors.  
 As you go outside,  
 you will find hummingbirds rare and special.

By Wesley G.



Amelia A., age 6



Carolina G-R., age 12



Briony H., age 11



Elijah C., age 10



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 by September 5, 2023  
 for "Giraffes."

## HUMMINGBIRD

# FAQs



### Are all hummingbirds iridescent?

No. Many hummingbirds are drab and dull. Females are often just a subdued brown or gray. Even those hummingbirds that flash the most color have no actual color on their feathers. The color you see is refracted light from the structure of the feathers. It's like the colors that flash when light hits a clear prism, or the rainbow colors you see when the sun sparkles on water from the lawn sprinkler. Highly colorful hummingbirds will even look dull if the light doesn't hit them right.

### Will a hummingbird attack me?

A hummingbird will defend its territory from intruders and its feeder from rivals. It will also scare intruders away from its nest. If a hummingbird hovers too near you and jabs at you, it's probably saying, "Give me some space!" Often they come near you to take some fuzz from a sweater or a loose hair to weave into a nest. If a hummingbird is used to you and knows that you fill the feeder, it may light on your shoulder or your hand.

# Humming Words

### Directions:

Try your wing, er uh, hand, at these humming words about hummingbirds. There are several clues that you can use to figure out the answers. For example, the first letter of each humming word is given in the box. You probably noticed that these first letters form the word *hummingbirds*.

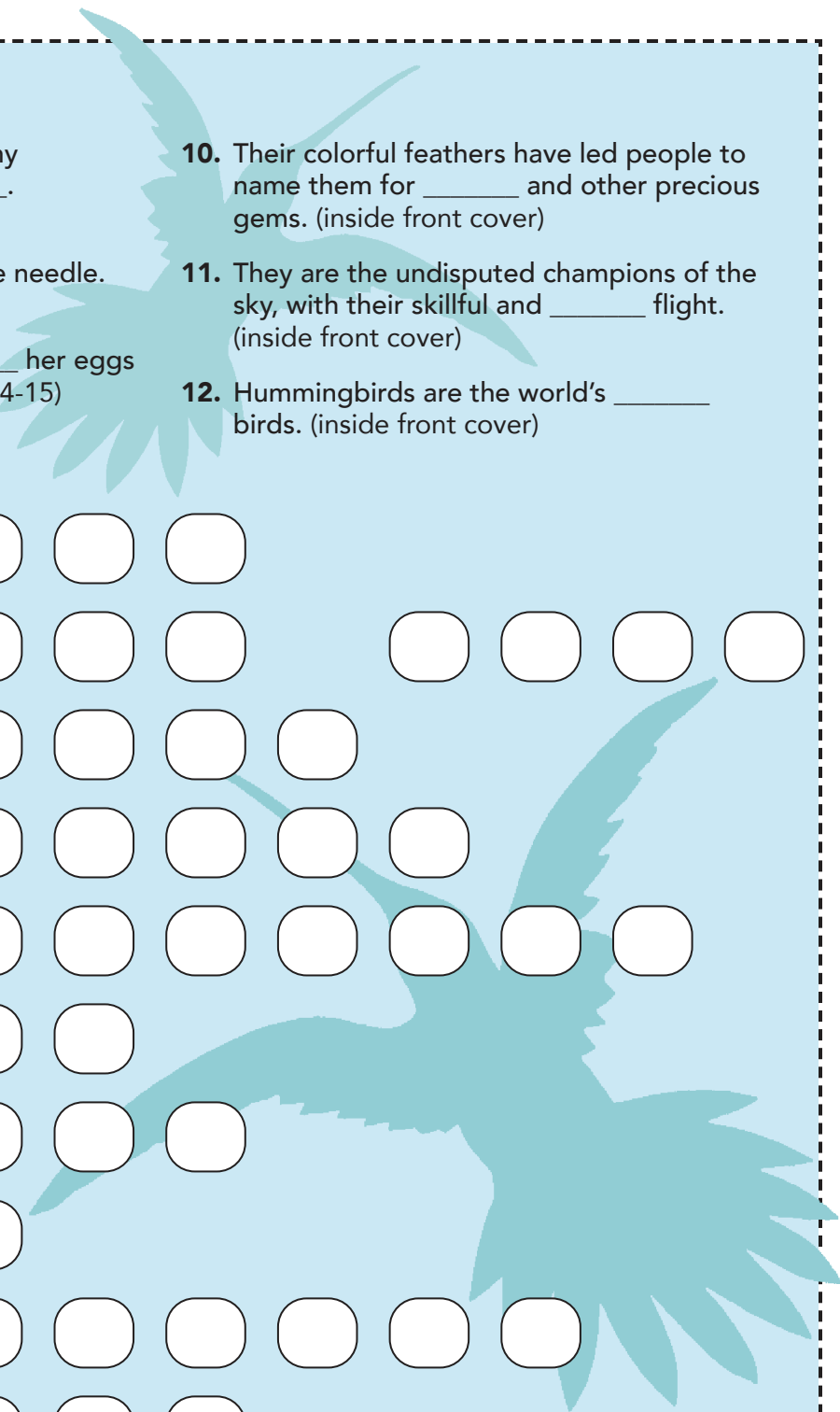
You can also use the clues below to figure out the words. Each clue is a sentence with the humming word missing. At the end of each of these clues is still another clue—the *Ranger Rick Zoobooks*® page on which information about the missing word appears.

Good luck with this humdinger of a puzzle!

Answers are on page c.

1. This flying ace \_\_\_\_\_ like a helicopter. (pages 2-3)
2. It is the only bird that flies backward and even \_\_\_\_\_. (pages 2-3)
3. Almost a third of a hummingbird's weight is in its chest \_\_\_\_\_. (pages 2-3)
4. Sometimes a hummingbird seems like a tiny \_\_\_\_\_ because it can change color. (pages 2-3)
5. Hummingbirds' \_\_\_\_\_ feathers flash in the sunlight like jeweled costumes. (pages 2-3)
6. Their \_\_\_\_\_ are about the size of half a walnut shell. (pages 14-15)

7. The colorful throat patch on many hummingbirds is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (pages 2-3)
8. Its \_\_\_\_\_ is as delicate as a fine needle. (inside front cover)
9. The mother hummingbird \_\_\_\_\_ her eggs for two weeks or more. (pages 14-15)
10. Their colorful feathers have led people to name them for \_\_\_\_\_ and other precious gems. (inside front cover)
11. They are the undisputed champions of the sky, with their skillful and \_\_\_\_\_ flight. (inside front cover)
12. Hummingbirds are the world's \_\_\_\_\_ birds. (inside front cover)



1.	H								
2.	U								
3.	M								
4.	M								
5.	I								
6.	N								
7.	G								
8.	B								
9.	I								
10.	R								
11.	D								
12.	S								

- Answers**
1. Hovers
  2. Upside down
  3. Muscles
  4. Magician
  5. Iridescent
  6. Nests
  7. Gorget
  8. Bill
  9. Incubates
  10. Rubies
  11. Daring
  12. Smallest

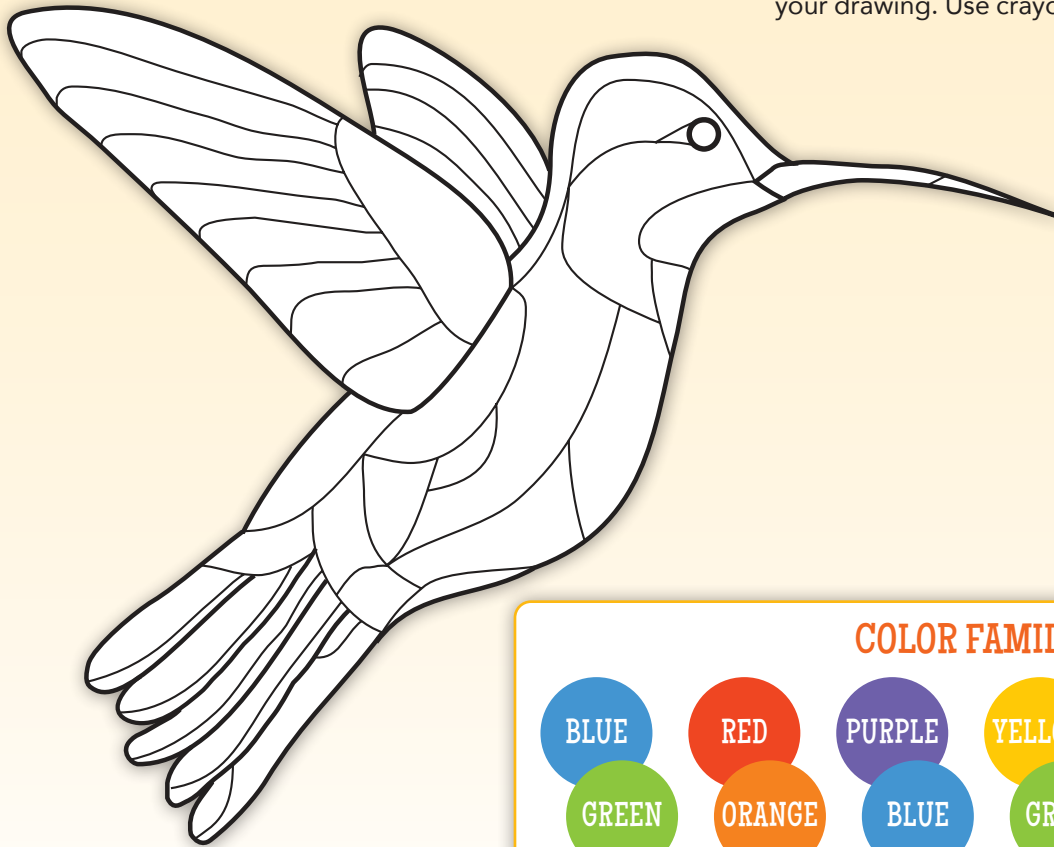
# Seeing Like an Artist

You can look at a hummingbird the way an artist might. Look at the textures and colors that appear on the hummingbirds in this issue of *Ranger Rick Zoobooks*®. You can use what you learn to finish the illustration of a hummingbird on this page.

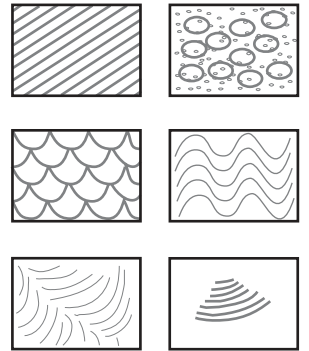
When selecting the textures that you will use, study the chart in this box. You can use similar textures on groups of feathers. For example, you might use the same type

of texture on all the wing feathers. You might use two or three types of textures on the feathers that cover the body of the bird. Create your selected textures with pencil on the illustration.

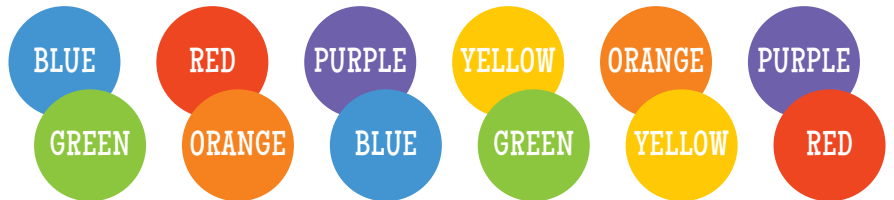
When choosing the colors that you will use, you might consider using colors from the same family. A sample of color families appears below. Then, use light tints and dark shades of your selected colors to add interest to your drawing. Use crayon, felt pens, or watercolor paints.



## TEXTURES CHART



## COLOR FAMILIES



## Get Your FINGERS on These BIRDS

You can make hummingbird finger puppets. First, color the puppets. Look through this issue of *Ranger Rick Zoobooks*® for ideas on how to color the birds.

Then, cut out the puppets. Tape the ends together to fit around one or two of your fingers.

You and a friend can make up a puppet show about hummingbirds. You might include ideas about how and what these tiny birds eat, their flying abilities, their busy lives, and how you can help them survive.

