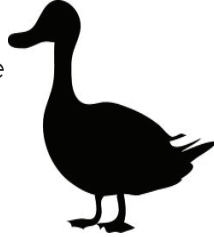


Most farmyard ducks are mallard ducks. The female mallard, also called a hen, is brown with dark spots. The male duck, called a drake, has a white ring around its neck and a green head.

Mallard ducks are waterfowl, meaning they spend much of their time in the water. They are also dabblers; they dive into the water to get their food. Ducks eat small insects, seeds, grass, and other plants.

Hens and drakes mate in the winter and nest, or lay eggs, in the spring. Like other birds, the female

Ducks



duck sits on the eggs to keep them warm and safe.

On the farm, ducks have many uses. They eat snails and slugs. Ducks are entertaining to watch as they fly, play, and groom themselves. Eggs from ducks can be decorated or eaten. Many people enjoy their flavorful meat. Finally, duck feathers can be used to stuff pillows and blankets.

On the farm, ducks swim in a pond during the day and are kept safe from lurking predators in their pens.

1. What do ducks eat?

They eat _____.

2. The female mallard duck is called a _____.

It is called a _____.

3. Where do mallard ducks spend most of their time?

In the _____.

4. Name two things you can do with duck eggs.

You can _____ or _____ them.

5. The male duck is called a _____.

It is called a _____.