

# POP! TEACHER RESOURCE



Lesson Plan



## Staying Safe

Lesson Plan for *Ostriches*

Grade 1

### Objective

To help students explore myths and truths about how ostriches stay safe from predators, and discuss examples of behaviors other animals use to stay safe.

### Things Needed

- *Ostriches* book
- Access to the “Ostriches” web page on the Pop! website:  
<https://popbooksonline.com/desert-animals/ostriches>

### Before the Activity

Read the *Ostriches* book out loud to students. Open the “Ostriches” web page in your internet browser. Click on the “Explore Links” tab and open the Wonderopolis article, “Do Ostriches Really Bury Their Heads in the Sand?”. This article can also be found here: <https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/do-ostriches-really-bury-their-heads-in-the-sand>

### Activity

Ostriches are large birds. But they still face danger from predators. Ostriches have behaviors that help them stay safe. The Wonderopolis article explores a myth about one of these behaviors. Read this article out loud as a class. Then discuss the following questions:

- What behavior does this article say some people believed ostriches did? (Answer: Some people thought ostriches buried their heads in the sand.)
- Why did people think ostriches did this? (Answer: They thought the ostriches were trying to hide from predators. They thought the ostriches felt safe because they couldn’t see the predators.)
- Is this explanation correct? How do we know? (Answer: Animal experts know ostriches don’t bury their heads. If ostriches did this, they wouldn’t be able to breathe.)



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- How do scientists think ostrich nests might explain how this myth got started? (Answer: Ostriches use small holes in the ground for their nests. They reach inside to turn their eggs with their beaks. From far away, it might look like they are sticking their heads in the sand.)
- What two other behaviors might also explain how this myth got started? (Answers: People could have seen ostriches eating plants or lying on the ground. Both actions might make the birds' heads look buried.)

According to this website, ostriches often lie flat on the ground when they sense danger. Ask students to list three ways of staying safe that were described in the book. (Answers: Ostriches in a flock take turns watching for predators. Ostriches run fast to get away from predators. Ostriches can kick predators.)

Finally, have students think of another animal that uses a behavior to stay safe from predators. Then, have them invent a silly myth about how the animal stays safe. Students should turn to a neighbor and share both the real explanation and the silly myth. The neighbor should guess which one is correct.

### **Evaluation**

Could students answer the questions about the article? Could they share a myth and a truth about another animal with a neighbor? Could any students correctly guess which explanation was real?

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1), and speaking and listening standards, grade 1 (SL 1.1).

