

# The PEACOCK

Large, colorful pheasants with iridescent tails

The peacock is a type of bird with a large, colorful tail, or train. The name is used to include females as well, but, technically, only the male is the peacock and the female is the peahen. Together, they are known as the peafowl. Peacocks use their iridescent tails to attract peahens. Over time, these tails have evolved to become larger and brighter. Peafowl, such as the blue peacock, have been admired by humans and kept as pets for thousands of years. They can be testy and do not mix well with other domestic birds.



## How do the trains work?



The peacock walks around mostly with his train following behind him

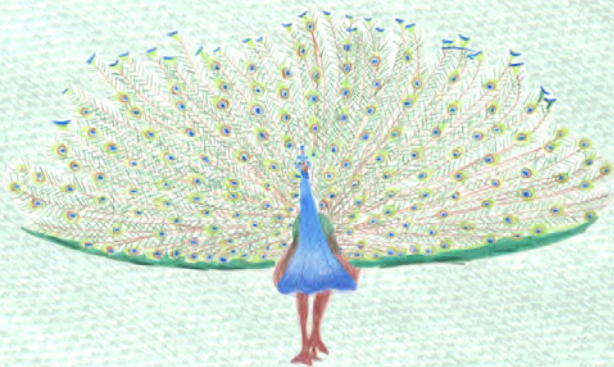


Muscles on a peacock's rump lift up his tail feathers. The train is then forced upward too. It only takes a matter of seconds for a peacock to lift his train.

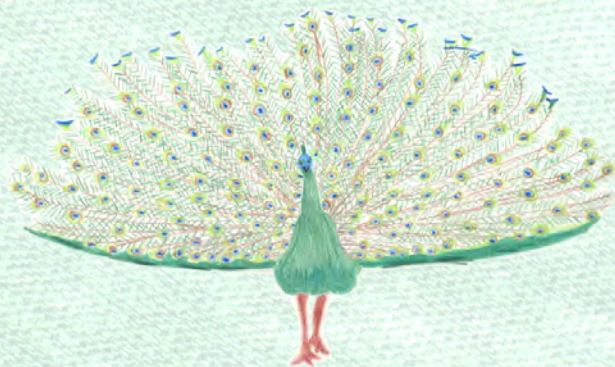


The peacock beats his wings and shakes. The train spreads into a fan. He then struts around like he's dancing, which is very important if it's windy.

## What are the different species?



The blue peacock is the most common species. They are also known as the Indian peacock, and they are the species found in many zoos and parks.



The green peacock is the next most common species. They have a green body and are found in Southeast Asia.



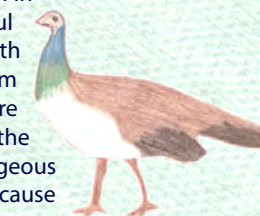
The Congo peacock is the more distinct and little-known species found in Central Africa. They don't have the large trains like the blue and green peacocks.

## DID YOU KNOW?

A male peafowl is one of largest flying birds when the combined length of his train and its large wingspan are considered.

## What about the peahen?

Peahens are the female peafowl and lack a colorful train. They are usually a drab, mottled brown in comparison to peacocks. They are less colorful because they need to be able to blend in with the bushes so that predators cannot see them while incubating their eggs. Peahens are believed to choose their mates according to the size, color, and quality of a peacock's outrageous feather trains. Peacocks grow their tails because peahens pay attention to them.



## Where are they found?

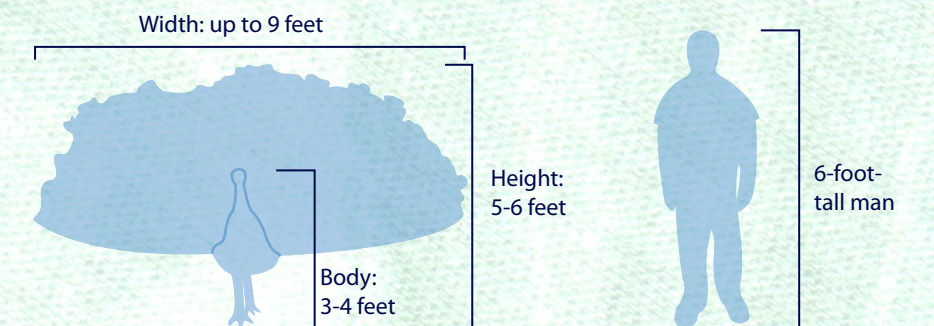
- Blue Peacock: India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- Green Peacock: Java and Myanmar (Burma)
- Congo Peacock: African rainforests



## What are some fast facts?

- Type:** Bird
- Average Life Span in the wild:** 20 years
- Size:** Body 25-50 in (90-130 cm)  
Tail 5 feet (1.5 m)
- Weight:** 8.75 to 13 pounds (4-6 kg)
- Group name:** Party
- Diet:** Omnivore

## How big are they?



## What are some facts about their tails?

- Peacocks have more than 200 feathers.
- They use their brilliant plumage to entice females; their large train is used in mating rituals and courtship displays. Sometimes they open their plumage either to please themselves, or just for practice.
- Their tails are heavy, difficult to carry, and can slow the animal down if they are running from a predator.
- It is thought that only a healthy and strong peacock can afford to grow a large tail.
- Their iridescent tails are made up of tall feathers that spread out in a distinctive train. This train is more than 60% of the birds total body length.
- Their tails boast colorful "eye" markings of blue, gold, red, and other hues.

