

**READ THE PASSAGE** Look for information that will help you know what will happen next.

### From Baby to Big

The eggshells cracked open. Baby birds with skin as pink as watermelon sat in the nest. They could not see, and they could not walk. All they could do was open their beaks wide. Their parents flew back and forth to the nest every few minutes. The babies, or **nestlings**, depended on their parents for food.

In a few days, the nestlings changed. Soft gray down covered their skin. The birds looked like small balls of fuzz. They could see, but they could not fly. They could not even hop. Days later, the down fell out. Feathers grew in to help them fly.

The young birds were now **fledglings**. They were getting ready to fly away. Their bodies were bigger, and they were hungry for more food. Some of the fledglings hopped, and others fluttered their wings. Their mother taught them sounds to make. She knew they would try to leave the nest. She taught them to make a sound when they needed help.

One day, a fledgling stood on the rim of the nest. It flapped its wings hard.

**SKILL PRACTICE** Read the item. Write your response.

1. What will happen next in the story?

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2. After the baby birds hatch, why do the parents return to the nest every few minutes?

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3. When does a nestling turn into a fledgling? How do you know?

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**STRATEGY PRACTICE** Write the question you thought of before you read the passage.

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