

READ THE PASSAGE Which statements about ostriches can be proved true?

Big and Bold

An ostrich is not an ordinary bird. It is the largest and heaviest bird. It has beautiful long feathers, but it cannot fly. Because of its size, an ostrich is built for running. It can take giant steps. It can sprint like a runner, too. Even the bird's wings help it run. If an ostrich needs to dash away, it spreads its wings. The wings keep the ostrich balanced. The wings also help an ostrich make sharp turns to confuse its enemy. It is a remarkable bird!

The most dangerous parts of an ostrich are its toes. The ostrich is the only bird with two toes on each foot. The longer of the toes ends in a four-inch claw. These claws can tear into an animal's hide. And the ostrich's strong legs can give a powerful kick.

Although an ostrich eats mostly plants, it will also eat whatever it can find. It will eat insects and small animals such as lizards. Pebbles and dirt are part of its diet, too. An ostrich does not have teeth. Swallowing small stones and dirt helps an ostrich to grind up the food. That makes the food easier to digest.

The ostrich is a very strange bird indeed!

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Are there any opinions in the first paragraph? Explain.

2. Are there any facts in the second paragraph? How do you know?

3. If you looked in an ostrich's stomach after it had eaten, what could you find there?

STRATEGY PRACTICE Tell a partner which part of the passage was easiest to visualize.