

# Cockatoos

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Cockatoo Facts

- Cockatoos are related to parrots and are recognizable by their showy crests and curved bills.
- They have two toes forward and two toes backward which help them grab onto branches.
- They are found primarily in Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia, Philippines as well as some areas of the South Pacific.
- Cockatoos are extremely intelligent birds with sociable personalities. Cockatoos can learn to repeat some words and sounds.
- Cockatoos are one of the few parrots to use tools. They have been seen clipping small sticks of wood and then scratching themselves. Also, during courtship they will hold a stick and beat it against hollow logs.
- Cockatoos mate for life.



## Writing a Narrative

There are many Australian myths and legends, including Aboriginal dreamtime stories, that are associated with the cockatoo.

Write your own "legend story" (story) about:  
"How the Cockatoo got its Crest"



Plan your story first.  
Who is in the story? (characters)  
Where does the story take place? (setting)  
What happens to start the events? (complication)  
What happens next? (sequence of events)  
How does the story end? (resolution)

Draw pictures to illustrate your story.

## Number Crunchers

Four students counted cockatoos in a local nature reserve. Here is their tally sheet.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Nicky |  |
| Amy   |  |
| Jon   |  |
| Ahmed |  |

Who counted the most cockatoos?

How many cockatoos did Jon count?

How many more cockatoos did Ahmed count than Amy?

What was the total number of cockatoos counted by the four students?

Do you know any more interesting facts about cockatoos?

## Drawing

**Major Mitchells Cockatoo** - white and salmon pink plumage and a large, bright red and yellow crest.

**Sulfur crested Cockatoo** - plumage is overall white, while the underwing and tail are tinged yellow. The crest is yellow and the bill is black.

**Red-tailed Black Cockatoo** - males are black, except for red tail bands. The slightly smaller females are brownish-black with yellow barring and spotting and have yellow-orange tail stripes.

Draw one of these cockatoos illustrating the correct plumage and crest colors.