

Read the magazine article.

The Mallard

The Mallard is one of the most well-known ducks in the world. In spring, many pairs of mallard ducks go to islands or sides of the river to nest. A female mallard usually lays no less than eight eggs each spring.

Of the two ducks in the picture, which one do you think is green and blue? The female in the nest? Of course not! It may surprise you to know that it is the male that looks more beautiful. The female duck is brown, which keeps her safe when she is in the nest. She has louder quacks than the male too!

What they eat: seeds, leaves, plants, insects

How long they live: 7 to 9 years



Test your understanding.

- What is another word for 'well-known' in line 1?
 - A. lovely
 - B. famous
 - C. friendly
 - D. common
- Look at the picture. What colour is the duck in the water?
 - A. brown
 - B. green and blue
 - C. blue and brown
 - D. blue, green and brown
- How many eggs does a female mallard usually lay?
 - A. 3
 - B. 5
 - C. 7
 - D. 9
- Read lines 7-8. What are 'quacks'?
 - A. eggs
 - B. wings
 - C. sounds
 - D. colours