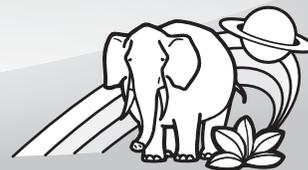


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A True Life Mystery



The sun rose to shine warmly on the forest. The dark, lush forest was in Guam. Guam is an island in the Pacific Ocean. On any other island, one would hear the sound of birds greeting the morning sun. No birds sang on Guam. Many birds used to sing on Guam. Their songs and cries would ring through the forests. Now there was silence.

Scientists were seeing bird species on Guam becoming extinct. When something becomes extinct, it is no longer living. Bird species on Guam were becoming extinct fast. Would the scientists figure out why? Would the scientists be able to stop it before it was too late? Some birds were caught in special nets. They were taken to zoos in other countries. The zoos would keep the birds safe. They would try to raise more birds in the zoo. Then, when it was safe, they could take the birds back to Guam.



A student named Julie came to solve the mystery. She looked at pesticides. Pesticides are used to kill pests. Pesticides can be sprayed on plants and insects. It was not the pesticides. Was it a disease? Julie brought birds to the island. She put them outside. She tested their blood. The birds did not get sick. It was not a disease. Finally Julie solved the mystery.



During World War II, a snake caught a ride on a boat. It came from the Philippines. It got loose on the island. The snake had no natural predators on the island. The snake was nocturnal. It was awake at night. It was a nocturnal predator. The snake laid eggs and more snakes were born. The snakes bit babies. They ate chickens. They ate birds and bird eggs. The snakes could climb power cables, too. They caused the power to go out nearly 1,000 times between 1978 and 1990.

The mystery is solved, but the work is not over.

Today scientists are working on keeping the last birds safe from snakes. They are working hard at bringing back birds to Guam. They are trying to stop snakes from going to other islands, too.

A True Life Mystery



After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
 - snakes.
 - extinct birds.
 - a bird mystery.
 - the island of Guam.
- A nocturnal predator
 - moves at night.
 - hunts at night.
 - moves during the day.
 - hunts during the day.
- Why were some birds caught and sent to zoos?
 - So scientists could keep them safe.
 - So scientists could see if they had a disease.
 - So scientists could see if pesticides were killing them.
 - So scientists could see if they could raise more birds for other zoos.
- Think about how the word **bird** relates to **song**. Which words relate in the same way?

bird : song

 - meow : cat
 - dog : bark
 - island : Guam
 - snake : predator
- What was one reason the snake did so well on Guam?
 - It hunted during the day.
 - Pesticides couldn't kill it.
 - It had no natural predators.
 - It was not tired from swimming.