



## Virtues of Vultures Quiz (by Lucy)

Hint: Some have more than 1 right answer...

1. The word buzzard suggests a vulture in the United States, but refers to a large hawk in Great Britain.  
A. True B. False
2. Vultures are specially adapted to eat *carrion*. What is *carrion*?  
A. any live animal B. green Leafy Vegetables  
C. carry on luggage on a plane D. any dead animal.
3. *Cathartes aura* is the scientific name for a Turkey Vulture. Cathartes means..  
A. smelly B. purifier C. bald head D. unsanitary
4. When vultures are soaring they are easily recognized by their...  
A. flat winged glide. B. narrow pointed wings.  
C. distinctive rocking motion. D. large massive head.
5. The niche of vultures in nature is to...  
A. attack weak and sickly animals.  
B. be part of nature's cleanup crew as scavengers.  
C. attack defenseless animals such as lambs or calves.  
D. circle above sick animals
6. Unlike most birds, Turkey Vultures ...  
A. can fly at night. B. possess an excellent sense of smell.  
C. have an excellent sense of hearing. D. nest on cliffs.
7. Vultures use their powerful feet with razor sharp talon to tear food to shreds.  
A. True B. False
8. Vultures are resistant to the bad effects of..  
A. Botulism B. Anthrax  
C. Brucellosis D. lead poisoning
9. Vultures have a "bald" head because..  
A. They can fly faster with a bald head.  
B. A nearly naked head doesn't harbor bacteria and debris.  
C. Other scavengers are attracted to bald heads.  
D. A bald head scares away other birds of prey.
10. The range of weights for adult Turkey Vultures is from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_pounds.  
A. 1-3 B. 3.5-6 C. 7- 10 D. 11 – 14
11. To keep cool, new world vultures practice *urohydrolysis*. Urohydrolysis is when..  
A. A vulture fans itself very fast with its wings.  
B. A vulture dives into water and stands in the water.  
C. A vulture spreads its wings to allow the sweat to evaporate.  
D. None of these are correct.
12. On the Indian Subcontinent, 99% of the vultures have disappeared. This drastic decline of vultures has caused...  
A. the Parsi people distress in carrying out the sacred rite of disposing of their dead.  
B. a large increase in feral dogs.  
C. an increase in the numbers of rats.  
D. a significant increase in rabies.

Answer(s) highlighted in yellow

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D. None of these are correct (They defecate on their legs and feet to cool themselves.)

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