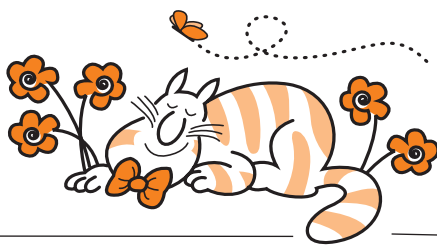


CAT TALES™

Spring 2010



The Canada geese return!

Spring brings new plants, flowers and leaves on trees, but it also sees the return of many species of birds who migrate to warmer climates for the winter, including the Canada goose.

Canada geese can be found in most areas of Canada where there are lakes, marshes, ponds, or even fields and city parks, in the spring, summer and fall, but they fly south to the United States during the harsh Canadian winter. But they are *Canada* geese, and every spring they return to their native land in the same V-shaped formation they arranged themselves into when they migrated south.

The V-shape they use means one goose leads the whole flock in flight, but that goose also has to work the hardest, cutting through the winds the same way a swimmer cuts through currents in the water. The geese



share the effort it takes to lead the flock. During a long flight, the leading goose will get tired from fighting the winds and drop back in the formation. One of the geese behind him or her will move to the front of the flock. When they're heading south, by co-operating and sharing the heavy work, the geese are able to fly up to 1,000 kilometres a day! On their return trip in the spring, the geese take it easier, stopping often to eat and rest.

Canada geese learn their migration patterns and routes from their parents, with the young geese following the older ones in flight. That's why the same flock of geese will go to the same location each winter, and return to the same place each spring.

These geese mate for life, choosing another mate only if their partner dies. Although there are some predators that feed on Canada geese and their eggs, such as foxes, falcons, eagles and owls, their worst enemy is people. Hunters like these geese because they follow the same migration paths every year, so it's easy to know when and where to find them.

Canada geese are very easy to recognize, since their unique black neck and head, with contrasting band of white under the chin set them apart from almost every other type of wild geese. These geese vary greatly in size, and can be almost as small as a duck, or up to four times as large. The smaller the goose, the higher pitched its voice is, so the small geese are often called "cacklers" and the large geese, with deeper voices, are called "honkers".

FAT CAT® JOKES

Q. What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in a hundred years?

A. The letter M!

Q. Why can't bicycles stand up alone?

A. Because they are two-tired!

Q. Why do geese lay eggs?

A. Because if they dropped them, they'd break!

Q. What do you call a kitten drinking lemonade?

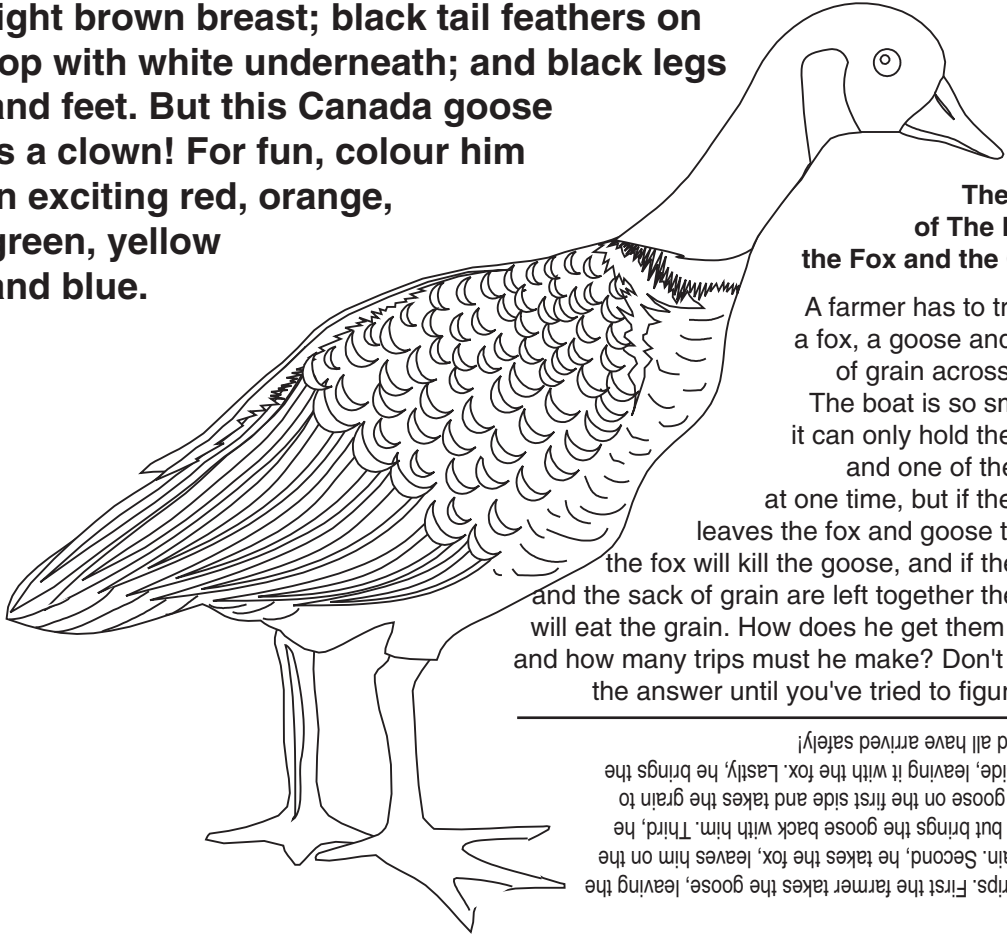
A. A sour-puss.



FAT CAT® Fun Page



A real Canada goose has dark brown feathers on its back; a black neck, head, and beak with a wide white chin strap; a light brown breast; black tail feathers on top with white underneath; and black legs and feet. But this Canada goose is a clown! For fun, colour him in exciting red, orange, green, yellow and blue.



The Riddle of The Farmer, the Fox and the Goose:

A farmer has to transport a fox, a goose and a sack of grain across a river.

The boat is so small that it can only hold the farmer and one of the others at one time, but if the farmer

leaves the fox and goose together the fox will kill the goose, and if the goose and the sack of grain are left together the goose will eat the grain. How does he get them all over and how many trips must he make? Don't peek at the answer until you've tried to figure it out!

Answer:
It takes 4 trips. First the farmer takes the goose, leaving the fox and grain. Second, he takes the fox, leaving him on the other side, but brings the goose back with him. Third, he leaves the goose on the first side and takes the grain to the other side, leaving it with the fox. Lastly, he brings the goose, and all have arrived safely!

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