

Name: _____ Date: _____

CONTEXT CLUE

A **context clue** is a word (or set of words) near an unknown word that gives you hints to the meaning of the unknown word.

WHY use
context
clues?

what is this?



You can look at it and stare at it and wonder about it, but you'll have a difficult time figuring out what it is.

would it help to see this picture's **context**?

In other words, would it help to see the **bigger picture**?

(The context of something means the bigger picture of what's going on.)

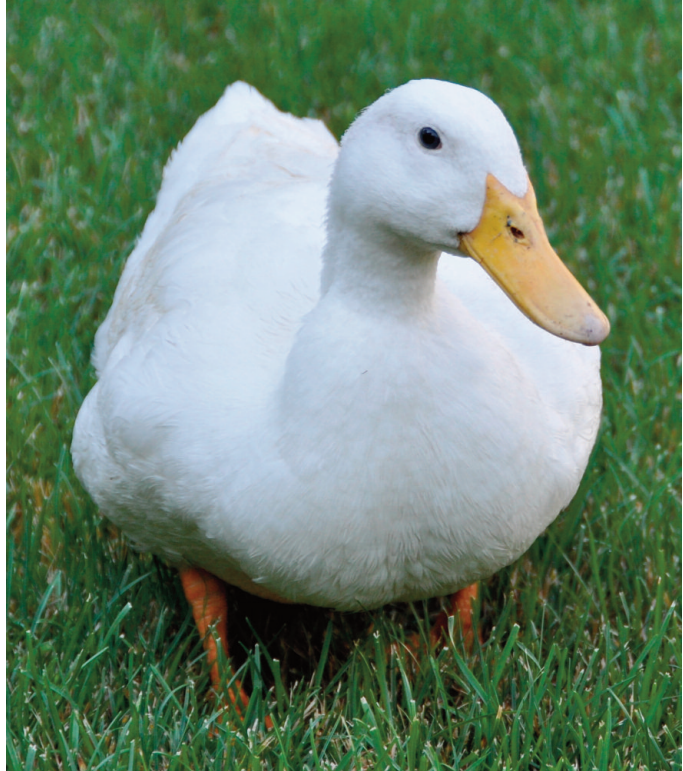


The beauty of a **CONTEXT CLUE**

Now you know what it is. When you looked at the first picture's context (when you looked at what was around it), you easily saw that the picture was part of a duck's beak.

It can work the same way with unknown words!

Using context clues doesn't work all the time, but it's a good strategy to quickly make a good guess as to what a word means.



CONTEXT CLUES IN ACTION:

What does this word mean?

halcyon

(Hint: you can think about it all day long and you won't figure it out without doing something. Let's try looking at it in a sentence and using context clues to figure it out.)

context clue #2

context clue #1

As the ship sailed west, the sailors watched the sea's gentle waves and listened to the seagulls in the clear skies calling to each other. The halcyon weather was about to end, however. To the east, dark clouds approached, heading right toward them.

What word is closest in meaning to **halcyon**?

angry

sharp

peaceful

wet