

## Trumpeter Swans

Read about the life cycle of trumpeter swans and then answer the questions below.

Trumpeter swans are large birds with white feathers, black bills, and long, straight necks. Trumpeter swans make a deep, trumpet-like call.

A male swan is called a *cob*, a female is a *pen*, and a baby swan is a *cygnet*.

Trumpeter swans form pairs when they are 3 or 4 years old and stay with the same swan for life. Every year, the swans go back to the place where they made a nest the year before. They add to last year's nest to make it better.

Trumpeter swans build huge nests. Males get the grass, sticks and other materials and females build the nests. A typical nest can measure up to five feet across and weigh hundreds of pounds!

The female swan lays 4 to 6 eggs and sits on them for about 32 days until the cygnets hatch out. She only leaves the nest to eat and clean herself. While she is sitting on the eggs, the male guards the nest. Within one day of hatching, cygnets are able to swim and feed themselves. Parents stay close and lead them to good feeding areas. About two months after hatching, the cygnets are ready to fly.

(From [Maryland Zoo: Trumpeter Swan](#) )

1. What is a baby swan called? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many eggs does a trumpeter swan lay? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long does it take for the cygnets take to hatch? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe the life cycle of the swan using details that you read. \_\_\_\_\_

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