



Swallow on a Mission

Sammy swallow was on his first scouting mission. He and several other swallows were sent ahead of the flock to make sure it was safe for them to return to the San Juan Capistrano Mission in California, where the birds annually nest and feed during the spring and summer months.

Sammy was excited and getting impatient. "Where are they?" he asked.

"Don't worry; it's March 19th; they'll be here," assured one of the more experienced scouts.

Finally, in the distance, Sammy spied the other swallows approaching. He could hardly contain his enthusiasm and flew out to greet them.

As the energetic, little birds arrived, they quickly began rebuilding their mud nests on the ruins of the old stone church and on other buildings throughout the Capistrano Valley. Centuries ago, the padres at the mission first noticed this migration pattern of the swallows. Today, the mission and its valley remain a good destination for the hungry birds because there is an abundance of insects for them to eat.

Sammy was proud to have served as a scout this year and just knew it was going to be a great summer.

Directions: Based on the story, decide whether the statements below are true or false. Then fill in the circle for the correct answer.

1. A swallow is a small, energetic bird.
 True False

2. In the story, Sammy swallow was on his tenth mission as a scout.
 True False

3. Sammy was watching for the other swallows to return to the San Juan Capistrano Mission in California.
 True False

4. The swallows return each year on March 19th to nest and feed for the summer.
 True False

5. The birds have trouble finding enough to eat in the Capistrano Valley.
 True False