

Name _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Article of the Week #1

Brainy Crows

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.

1st Impressions: Skim the article using these symbols as you read:
(☺) agree, (X) disagree, (☆) surprising, (?) confusing
Circle unfamiliar words.

SCORE:
CLOSE Read ____/8
Response ____/12

2nd Thoughts: 1. Number the paragraphs.
2. Read the article carefully and make notes in the margin.

Notes should include:

- A. **Comments** that show that you **understand** the article. (Summarize or give your own personal opinion about what is said in the article.)
- B. **Define** unfamiliar words or phrases. (Write definitions or use context clues to understand the words you circled in the first read.)
- C. **Questions** you have about the article, or something you don't understand.
- D. **Identify** the difference between **fact** and **opinion**.
- E. **Observations** about the **writer's strategies** (word choice, perspective, supporting evidence).

3rd Conclusions: A **final quick read** noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.
Highlight key information. This should show the article's main idea.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assignment.

Brainy Crows Trained to Pick Up Trash at Theme Park

By Mindy Weisberger, Senior Writer | August 13, 2018 01:46pm ET



People could learn a thing or two about trash disposal from trained rooks at a French theme park.

Credit: Puy du Fou

A team of trained birds will really clean up at a French theme park, where they will collect and discard cigarette butts and other bits of trash.

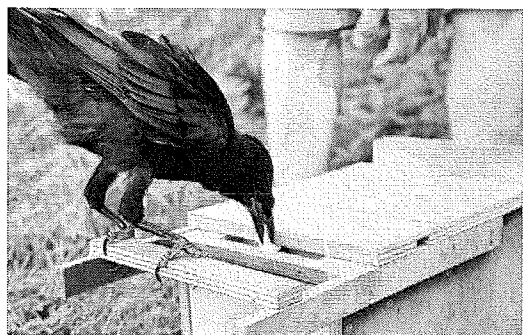
Six rooks — a type of bird in the crow family, native to Europe and parts of Scandinavia and Asia — are expected to get to work this week picking

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

up litter at Puy du Fou, a park that features period villages and gardens, as well as historic re-enactments, performances and events, the Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

The avian trash collectors were raised in captivity and trained by Christophe Gaborit, a falconer and project manager with the park's Academy of Falconry, so you might say that the birds got their job through crow-nyism.

Gaborit was inspired to recruit the rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) by something he saw 20 years ago: a group of wild ravens sifting through natural litter in a field, Puy du Fou representatives wrote in a blog post. If corvids — the family that includes crows, ravens and rooks — were already inclined to sort materials in their habitat, perhaps they could be trained to identify and discard litter left behind by humans, Gaborit explained in the post.



A box with a hidden drawer rewarded the birds for depositing cigarette butts and other bits of litter.

Credit: Puy du Fou

He raised and trained his first pair of trash-collecting rooks in 2000, with a little help from a special cabinet — when the birds deposited trash in the drawer, a second compartment would be opened to reward them with a tasty treat, according to the blog post. Repeating this action led the rooks to associate rubbish removal with food, though they would sometimes try to trick their trainer by dropping bits of wood in the box, Gaborit said.

While a winged cleanup crew may not be the most efficient method for keeping a large park litter-free, the sight of the busy rooks will hopefully teach visitors to be more careful about where they dispose of their trash, according to the blog.

Original article on Live Science.

Writing Response. Complete on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Summarize this article in 20 words or less.
2. Why would anyone want to use rooks to help clean up a park?
Use R.A.C.E.
3. How were the rooks trained to pick up trash?
Use R.A.C.E.

*Notes on my thoughts,
reactions and questions as I
read:*